

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU

# VAMPIRELLA

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# VAMPIR'S FEARY TALES

## THE MATRIMONIAL MURDERER

MRS. BELLE GUNNESS A SHORT 280-POUND WOMAN WITH A HAWK NOSE AND SEVERAL SETS OF CHINS, GRIEVED QUITE PROPERLY UPON HER HUSBAND'S DEATH "WHEN A MEAT CLEAVER FELL ON THE POOR MAN'S HEAD"...

PURCHASING A SMALL PLOT OF LAND OUTSIDE OF TOWN AFTER THE FUNERAL, SHE RAISED HOGS. ALWAYS DRESSED IN BLOOD-STAINED COVERALLS AND APRON, SHE OFTEN COMPLAINED THAT CARING FOR THREE CHILDREN REQUIRED THE BUTCHERING OF MANY HOGS...



THEN, ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 28, 1908 A FIRE RAZED THE WIDOW'S SMALL HOME. THE CHARRED REMAINS OF A HEADLESS WOMAN AND THREE CHILDREN WERE DISCOVERED IN THE EMBERS. THE COUNTY CORONER, HOWEVER, TESTIFIED THAT THE FEMALE CORPSE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE OBESE BELLE GUNNESS, SINCE THE BODY WAS THAT OF A WOMAN WHO WEIGHED LESS THAN 150 POUNDS...



THE BIZARRE CASE WAS ABOUT TO BE CLOSED WHEN A STRANGER APPEARED. HE WAS SEEKING THE WHEREABOUTS OF HIS BROTHER WHO, HE CLAIMED, HAD WED THE WIDOW GUNNESS SOME THREE MONTHS PREVIOUS. PRESENTING CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN BELLE AND HIS BROTHER TO THE SHERIFF, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE WIDOW HAD REQUESTED HER PROSPECTIVE HUSBAND TO BRING \$4000 TO CLEAR THE HOUSE'S MORTGAGE WHEREUPON THEY WOULD BE MARRIED. AND ALTHOUGH THE STRANGER CLAIMED HIS BROTHER HAD COMPLIED WITH BELLE'S REQUEST, NO WEDDING HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN THE TOWN WITHIN A YEAR-- MUCH LESS WITH THE GROTESQUE WIDOW GUNNESS AS THE BRIDE...

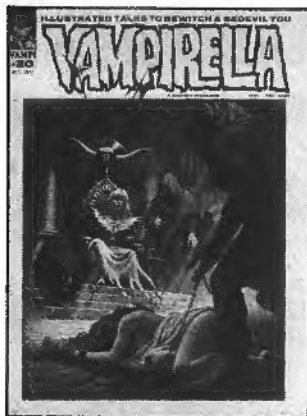
INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERY, THE SHERIFF LOCATED A HIDDEN PIT BENEATH THE WIDOW'S HOG-PEN WHICH CONTAINED THE DISMEMBERED REMAINS OF 14 MEN. BELLE GUNNESS HAD PLACED MATRIMONIAL WANT-ADS IN PAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, LURING LOVE-SICK MEN AND THEIR MONEY TO HER FARM. POISONING THEM WITH LACED AFTER-DINNER COFFEE, SHE HAD BLUDGEONED THEIR HEADS IN WITH A BALLPEEN HAMMER AND DISSECTED THEM IN THE PIT AT HER LEISURE, DISPOSING OF THE BODIES (AND EVIDENCE) UNDER THE PRETENSE OF HOG-BUTCHERING. BELLE WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE DELUDED SUITORS' MONEY. A TOTAL OF \$30,000 WAS MILKED FROM THE 14 MEN-- WHERE UPON BELLE SET THE FIRE WHICH KILLED HER CHILDREN AND FLED WITH HER ILL-GOTTEN FORTUNE. THE HEADLESS WOMAN'S BODY WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MAID WHO HAD DISCOVERED BELLE'S MURDEROUS DEEDS, BUT THE MATRIMONIAL MASS-MURDERER WAS NEVER FOUND...



BEEN CHECKING THE MATRIMONIAL ADS IN YOUR LOCAL PAPER LATELY? BEWARE, IF YOU SEE ONE IN WHICH A FAT SINGLE WOMAN IS LOOKING FOR A SKINNY HUSBAND, BE CAREFUL! IT MAY BE BELLE LOOKING FOR HER NEXT VICTIM!







**OUR COVER:**  
Artist Luis Dominguez portrays a beautiful woman helpless before the man sorcerer, Jenwral. From the story "Vengeance, Brother, Vengeance," Page 62.

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# VAMPIRELLA

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It's ironic that as chauvinistic a magazine as yours can come up with useful ideas for radical women liberationists like myself. I'm referring to "A Man's World" in VAMPIRELLA #17. My sisters and I find a cannibalistic solution to the male/female conflict the most inviting of all. Some of you well-fed chauvinists who run VAMPIRELLA could be the first on the menu. And if VAMPIRELLA were a real female, she might agree.



**DEBBY & KATHY**  
Burbank, Calif.

I prefer cleavage to cleavers.

Although VAMPIRELLA #17 was for the most part quite well done, I must say that I found "A Man's World" truly distasteful. It's not that I have a particularly weak stomach or anything like that. It's just that it seems to me you could have found something far less gruesome and far more enjoyable than "A Man's World." The kind of people who find that sort of thing appealing should not be allowed to run around loose.

**T.M.**  
Lynbrook, N.Y.

Even though VAMPIRELLA #17 was a bit gloomy, I must say that "Lover of the Bayou" was quite a trip! Fantastic!

**FRED GORK**  
Redwood City, Calif.

What's this I've been reading about the Aurora VAMPIRELLA model kit being corrupt? This is all out of proportion! A Dear Abby newspaper column claimed the kits come with a free beaker of blood! Either this is an absurd lie or I was cheated. Another article claimed that torture chambers teach children murder is a fun game.

**SAM L. IRVIN JR.**  
Asheville, N.C.

When we originally licensed Aurora to produce VAMPIRELLA Hobby Kits, we had no idea they were going to portray her as someone who "tortured" victims. We're glad that Aurora had discontinued this bad image of our favorite lady. —Ed.

## "I was dreaming when I read Vampirella!"

"Lover of the Bayou" in VAMPIRELLA #17 was stupid but the art was fantastic. What do you have against women's lib? Maybe a few of the ladies act like mad dogs but their claims are justified. VAMPIRELLA has got to be the best comic heroine ever! Instead of being a saccharine nothing, VAMPI has an element of evil about her. Anyone over eight years old gets tired of Lois Lane types.

**DANIELLE BROWN**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

VAMPIRELLA, you're the ghouldest vampiress I've ever set eyes on! Never mind this mushy stuff however. This is in response to Jerome Holst's letter in VAMPIRELLA #17. (Reader Holst wrote that VAMPI should be more style conscious & occasionally change costume—ed.) Personally, I think you're perfect just the way you are.

**BELA L. LOVAS**  
Dolton, Ill.

Enrich is fantastic! I like his work more than Frazetta's. Even my Art teacher was impressed by Enrich's cover of VAMPIRELLA #17.

**JAMES CUELLAR**  
Pico Rivera, Calif.

VAMPIRELLA ought to return to Drakulon in a future adventure. Adam Van Helsing should accompany her if he really loves her. I don't know, of course, but the sound of the mad God, Chaos strikes me as funny. Wish your writer would change it as it reminds me of Chaos on TV's "Get Smart."

**DAVID TOMS**  
Washington Crossing, Pa.



In the shadowy world of the Dreamslayer ("Beware, Dreamers!"—VAMPIRELLA #17), Adam Van Helsing became victim to VAMPIRELLA's bloodlust. Writes Glendora, Calif. reader JERRY AUSTIN, "The VAMPIRELLA story in VAMPIRELLA #17 was like a dream."

You really ought to run for President, VAMPI. You are intelligent, liberal, and best of all, very good looking. However, I wouldn't want the Presidency to interfere with your present occupation as heroine of the VAMPIRELLA series. My favorite authors of all time are J.R.R. Tolkien, Bram Stoker and Ovid. Your magazine seems to contain a mixture of all three. Especially enjoy the use of mythology in VAMPIRELLA.

**STEVE READE**  
Eugene, Oregon

Enrich deserves a gold medal for his cover of VAMPIRELLA #17. Yours is the best magazine going, VAMPI. Eerie is second best and Creepy, well, what can I say? "Lover of the Bayou" was out-a-sight!

**CRAIG McPHERSON**  
Lachine, Canada

Unfortunately, I don't share the enthusiasm most of your readers have for VAMPIRELLA. Mind you, I still buy at least two copies of each issue but only to keep up my collection. Lately, I think the artwork's taken a nose-dive. The last truly outstanding issue of VAMPIRELLA was #12. You've replaced the artistic geniuses of issues past with good but not great artists. Only Jose Bea and Luis Garcia do work that I would call noticeable. The only decent story in VAMPIRELLA #17 was "A Man's World." It had the kind of relevance we've been waiting for.

**GARY KIMBER**  
Ontario, Canada

Of all the Warren magazines, VAMPIRELLA is the best! You're much better than Sleepy and Weary. Especially liked "Beware, Dreamers!" in VAMPIRELLA #17. Anytime you need blood, feel free to put the bite on me.

**MICHAEL B. COLE**  
Great Neck, N.Y.

Here's a rundown on what I thought of VAMPIRELLA #17. Overall, I'd rate it an A, but I'm not grading it overall, but rather story by story. "Beware, Dreamers!" has to be one of the greatest VAMPIRELLA stories yet! "Horus" was dull and unexciting. "Death in the Shadows" tied for second place with "A Man's World." Both stories were awfully good. "Lover of the Bayou" gets third place. I'd rate "The Wedding Ring" on par with "Horus." I hope there are at least a million issues of VAMPIRELLA to come.

**JOHN VANDEGRIFT**  
Harrisburg, Pa.



Is that all?

VAMPIRELLA #17 was magnificent. Enrich's cover was superb. He is one of your very best cover artists. Top story was "A Man's World." The way those women prepared dinner was mind-wrenching. Glad to see you finally have a Fan Club, VAMPIRELLA. I'd been waiting for one a long time.

**RICK MORGAN**  
Pooltown, N.C.

Just recently purchased my first VAMPIRELLA, #17, and have devoured it from cover to cover. I was most impressed with the writing and the artwork. One question—Are you a policewoman from the planet, Drakulon? I get the impression you are but don't know for sure. Keep up the good work and tell old skin-head and Pudgy Puss to eat their hearts out. Incidentally, I'm no kid. I am a 26-year-old Vietnam veteran who digs VAMPIRELLA.

**RICHARD D. CHAPMAN**  
Palos Verdes, Calif.



Thanks for your sentiments, Richard. Sorry, but I'm not a police-woman from the planet, Drakulon. At least not yet.



## "I can't keep my fangs clean!"

I collect Eerie and Famous Monsters of Filmland. For all I care, Creepy can go jump in a lake. Bought my first VAMPIRELLA #17, today and the only thing I can say is that it was fantastic. Luis Garcia's artwork on "Death in the Shadows" was beautiful. Best stories in the issue were "Beware, Dreamers!" and "Horus."

**HENRY ZUGARO**  
Elmont, N.Y.

The highlight of VAMPIRELLA #17 was "A Man's World." Here was a truly phenomenal story by a new writer, Mike Jennings and Jose Bea's artwork was more than appropriate to the story content. Krantz' characterization, continuing as it did throughout the story, was a rare and pleasing sideline. I see that the Bea was taken enough by Krantz's resemblance to VAMPIRELLA in panel 2, page 45, that he decided to pattern her after VAMPI for the remainder of the story. That was really cute and made "A Man's World" even better. Auraleon's work on the VAMPI's Feary Tales feature was beautiful. A beautiful, beautiful cover by Enrich. Even though I was a bit disappointed that VAMPIRELLA wasn't on the cover. For obvious reasons, VAMPIRELLA should always be the cover subject.

**E.W. FLESH**  
Wyckoff, N.J.

No way did I expect the ending of "Beware, Dreamers!" in VAMPIRELLA #17. Loved the story of "Horus" but wasn't terribly impressed by Maroto's artwork. "A Man's World" was perfect and rates best story of the issue. Enjoyed "Lover of the Bayou" but didn't much care for "The Wedding Ring." The ending was more than obvious. Soon, VAMPIRELLA will have another member in her Fan Club. Namely, me!

**DON FORD**  
Bowie, Texas

Noticed in the last panel on p.37 of VAMPIRELLA #17 that Melissa's father was clearly visible in the rear view mirror. Vampire's don't reflect in mirrors, VAMPI. I happen to know this for a fact because every evening I get up to brush my fangs, I can't see them.

**DAVID JENKINS**  
Calgary, Canada



Oops! Sorry about that Dave. Except for your tooth-some troubles in front of the mirror, you have 20-20 vision.

Talk about shock endings! "Horus" and "Death in the Shadows" in VAMPIRELLA #17 were real shockers! I regret to say there was only one blemish in the entire issue and that was two panels in "A Man's World." In panel 2 on page 47 and panel 2, page 49, artist Jose M. Bea drew Krantz's profile to resemble VAMPIRELLA. Rather VAMPI hadn't been used to portray that sick-minded harpie. I'm really pleased that you finally have a Fan Club, VAMPI. My membership is in the mail already. As for that letter page comment that VAMPIRELLA is "just a figurehead for male chauvinism," I say that reader should be exiled to the dreaded "nether void" for eternity to suffer a fate a thousand times worse than that of poor Norto in "Beware, Dreamers!"

**CRAIG CARTER**  
San Francisco, Calif.

VAMPIRELLA #17 was both well-written and beautifully drawn! As for the criticism that VAMPIRELLA is going the true love story route, who ever heard of a love story being called "Death in the Shadows?"

**ALAN ALSUP**  
Maitland, Fla.

"Death in the Shadows" in VAMPIRELLA #17 is one of the best vampire epics I've yet come across.

**ARMIN QUAST**  
Edmonton, Canada

# INSIDE 20

Continuing the 19th Century VAMPIRELLA epic begun in VAMPIRELLA #19 ("Shadow of Dracula"), writer T. Casey Brennan returns us to the time of the first Van Helsing's, doctors Abraham & Boris, as they pursue their search and destroy mission against the cult of vampirism in "When Wakes The Dead," beginning on page 6.

Besides studying Bram Stoker's novel of "Dracula," before scripting "Shadow of Dracula" and this issue's "When Wakes The Dead," Brennan also studied the two-issue Creepy Dracula spectacular, "The Coffin of Dracula" (Creepy #8 & 9) written by Archie Goodwin and illustrated by Reed Crandall (reprinted in Creepy Special Issue #48.)

"Gender Bender" on p.20 is the third "Tomb of the Gods" tale to appear in VAMPIRELLA. Written and illustrated by "Dax" artist Esteban Maroto, the series bids fair to rival VAMPIRELLA's herself. Visit the strange and gifted worlds of Maroto where mythic legend holds sway and fantasy guides the helm.

The issue is host to a new and welcome artist, Luis Domínguez, who did both the cover and the cover story, "Vengeance, Brother, Vengeance" on page 62.



"Vengeance, Brother, Vengeance" illustrator, and cover artist, Luis Domínguez... A new Warren star!

Writer Steve Skeates (pronounced skates, like in roller) is back this issue with another of his mind-benders. His "Love Is No Game," page 32, is a superbly crafted piece rendered by a comic illustrator, acclaimed around the world, Luis Garcia.

And with artist Auraleon rounding out the bill with "Eye-Opener," a story which will definitely make your eyes pop, we have yet another issue with a lineup of talent destined to make comics history.

## THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY A MAN'S WORLD!

Cause of much letter page comment this issue is the story "A Man's World" from VAMPIRELLA #17. Author Mike Jennings gives his reasons for writing the piece:

"I meant the story from the viewpoint of an unapologetic 'male chauvinist' observing the more emasculatory aspects of Women's Lib, carried to an illogical, but not impossible, extreme. It is, at best, poor reasoning to confuse normal masculine pride with rabid chauvinism, but it is good propaganda because if you say it long enough and loud enough, the suckers will believe it. I use quotes to describe myself as a 'male chauvinist,' for I am such only to those who refuse to recognize the inherent and totally wholesome differences between men and women, psychological as well as physical. My thesis is that any tampering with nature must have cataclysmic consequences. There is no inequality in the fact that traditionally men serve women as their protectors and providers; and women serve men as their comforters and companions. In 'A Man's World,' the female chauvinists (in the true sense of the term) have achieved their ambitions. They serve men, but only as a main course."

self as a 'male chauvinist,' for I am such only to those who refuse to recognize the inherent and totally wholesome differences between men and women, psychological as well as physical. My thesis is that any tampering with nature must have cataclysmic consequences. There is no inequality in the fact that traditionally men serve women as their protectors and providers; and women serve men as their comforters and companions. In 'A Man's World,' the female chauvinists (in the true sense of the term) have achieved their ambitions. They serve men, but only as a main course."

## YOU ARE UNDER MY SPELL!

Your will is my will. You must do as I command. Make sure you have writing paper. Get yourself a writing instrument of some kind. Be seated. Now, put pencil to paper & write VAMPIRELLA! Address all letters to:

**SCARLET LETTERS**  
c/o Warren Publishing Co.  
145 East 32nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016



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Dear Vampi:  
Enclosed is my \$2.00.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



THE TIME IS THE LATE 19th CENTURY. THE PLACE, THE MANSION OF BORIS AND ABRAHAM VAN HELSING, FORBEARS OF THE MODERN VAN HELSINGS, TWO BROTHERS UNITED IN THE TURN OF THE CENTURY BATTLE TO DESTROY THE VAMPIRE DRACULA. NEXT TO THEM, THEIR LABORATORY ASSISTANT, A GIRL FROM THE STARS POSING AS MISS ELLA NORMANDY, A GIRL KNOWN BETTER AS...



BEFORE THEM LIES THE PERFECTLY PRESERVED BODY OF LUCY WESTENRA, AN EARLY VICTIM OF THE MONSTER CALLED DRACULA. IN 1897, THE FIRST VAN HELSINGS, THE DOCTORS BORIS AND ABRAHAM, WERE ON THE VERGE OF DISCOVERING A CURE FOR VAMPIRISM. SENT BACK IN TIME THROUGH CONRAD VAN HELSING'S POWERS OF WHITE WITCHCRAFT, VAMPIRELLA JOINS THEM IN THEIR FIGHT. SO TOO DOES DRACULA WHO WAITS EVEN NOW, BIDDING TIME, WRESTLING WITH THE AGE-OLD CONFLICT IN HIS SOUL, ENKINDED ANEW BY THE CONJURESS.

\* SEE "SHADOW OF DRACULA" -- VAMPIRELLA #19



HER BODY IS PERFECTLY PRESERVED, AS WE HOPED IT WOULD BE!

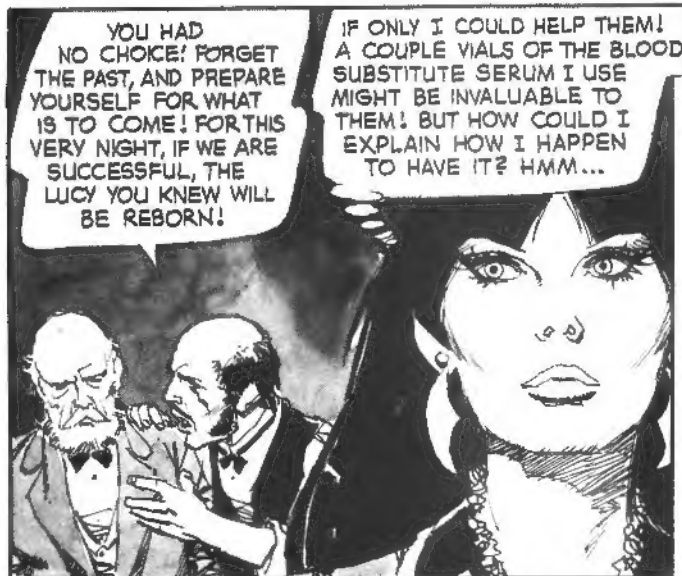
IT IS NOT SO UNCOMMON, FOR ONE WHO ONCE LIVED AS A **VAMPIRE!**



HOW STRANGE IT IS TO CALL HER BY THAT WORD! DEAR LUCY--IF ONLY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN HER BEFORE SHE BECAME THE BLOODTHIRSTING CREATURE YOU SEE HERE!

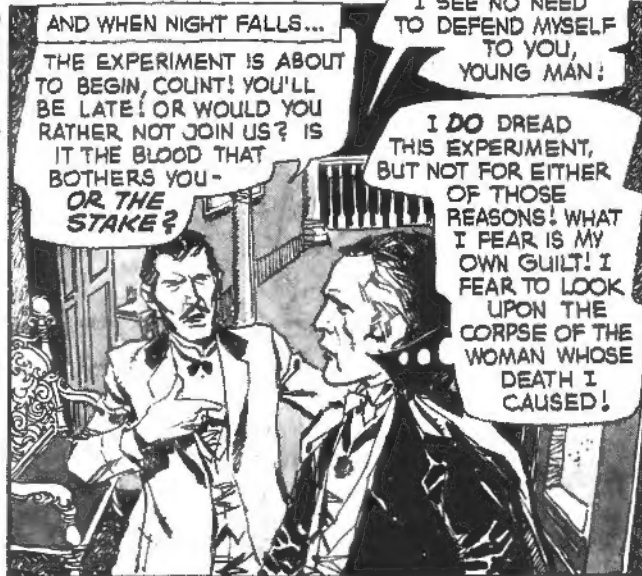


THE CREATURE I WAS FORCED TO KILL!



YOU HAD NO CHOICE! FORGET THE PAST, AND PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WHAT IS TO COME! FOR THIS VERY NIGHT, IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE LUCY YOU KNEW WILL BE REBORN!

IF ONLY I COULD HELP THEM! A COUPLE VIALS OF THE BLOOD SUBSTITUTE SERUM I USE MIGHT BE INVALUABLE TO THEM! BUT HOW COULD I EXPLAIN HOW I HAPPEN TO HAVE IT? HMM...



AND WHEN NIGHT FALLS...

THE EXPERIMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, COUNT! YOU'LL BE LATE! OR WOULD YOU RATHER NOT JOIN US? IS IT THE BLOOD THAT BOTHERS YOU - **OR THE STAKE?**

I SEE NO NEED TO DEFEND MYSELF TO YOU, YOUNG MAN!

I **DO** DREAD THIS EXPERIMENT, BUT NOT FOR EITHER OF THOSE REASONS! WHAT I FEAR IS MY OWN GUILT! I FEAR TO LOOK UPON THE CORPSE OF THE WOMAN WHOSE DEATH I CAUSED!



SOON...

WHEN WE REMOVE THE STAKE, COUNT, SHE WILL BECOME A LIVING VAMPIRE! THAT'S WHY, FOR PROTECTION, WE CARRY THESE...





# WHEN WAKES THE DEAD





A **SECOND** INJECTION?  
BUT WASN'T THAT OUR  
ANTI-VAMPIRISM SERUM  
THAT YOU JUST  
GAVE HER?

YES! BUT THANKS TO COUNT  
DRACULA, WE HAVE A **BLOOD  
SUBSTITUTE** SERUM AS WELL,  
TO HELP HER REGAIN HER  
STRENGTH! THE COUNT DISCOVERED  
IT, AND GAVE IT TO ME ONLY THIS  
MORNING! I TOLD YOU HIS  
SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE WOULD  
PROVE INVALUABLE!

IT'S REALLY **MY**  
BLOOD SUBSTITUTE SERUM!  
BUT I HAD TO LET DRACULA  
TAKE THE CREDIT-- THEY'D  
NEVER BELIEVE A LOWLY  
LABORATORY ASSISTANT  
DISCOVERED IT!



IT'S  
WORKING!  
THE COLOR IS  
RETURNING TO  
HER CHEEKS!

IT **DID** WORK, AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED,  
THE GIRL WHO HAD ONCE SLEPT IN THE COLD  
EARTH NOW WALKED UPON IT. ALWAYS AT HER  
SIDE WAS THE MAN WHO HAD BECOME HER  
FAITHFUL PROTECTOR, COUNT DRACULA...

YOU ARE SO KIND,  
COUNT! SO VERY  
DIFFERENT FROM  
THE DRACULA I  
KNEW!

SHE MUST NEVER KNOW I  
**AM** THAT SAME DRACULA! AND  
YET-- I SEEM TORN BY THIS INNER  
URGE TO TELL HER! TO BARE MY  
SOUL-- TO CONFESS THAT IT WAS  
I WHO CAUSED HER MISERY  
AND HER DEATH!



AND IF I DID, WOULD  
HER SMILE STAY AS SWEET?  
COULD EVEN ONE AS GENTLE AS  
SHE, FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I HAVE  
DONE? THE SINS OF A CENTURY PAST  
RETURN TO HAUNT ME NOW-- AS I  
REMEMBER HOW SWEET HER KISSES  
WERE WHEN I FIRST DECEIVED HER!  
SHE WAS AS TRUSTING THEN AS NOW--  
AND WHEN MY KISS BECAME THE  
KISS OF DEATH, SHE BARELY  
STRUGGLED, UNABLE TO  
BELIEVE WHAT WAS TRANS-  
PIRING... HOW COULD I  
HAVE DONE THAT TO  
HER? EVEN UNDER THE  
SPELL OF CHAOS,  
**HOW COULD I?**

HE LOOKS AFTER  
HER VERY WELL! PERHAPS  
I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM  
AFTER ALL! HE DOES NOT  
SHUN THE DAYLIGHT... NOR  
FEAR THE CROSS!  
YET... SOMEHOW I  
FEEL HE **DOES** BEAR  
WATCHING!



BUT AS NIGHT FALLS...

LOOK, DRACULA!  
THE SUNSET--ISN'T  
IT BEAUTIFUL?

INDEED IT IS--  
BUT YOU MUST BE TIRED!  
I SHALL SEE YOU TO  
YOUR ROOM!

THE BLOODLUST!  
IT RETURNS--AND EACH  
NIGHT IT GROWS WORSE!  
HOW LONG CAN I  
HOLD BACK THESE  
URGES WITHIN ME?

I FEAR YOU ARE  
RIGHT! I-I-

YOU'VE  
OVERTAXED YOURSELF!  
I WILL CARRY  
YOU BACK!

IT WAS IN THIS  
VERY SAME WAY THAT  
I CARRIED HER BEFORE--  
AFTER I HAD DRAINED HER  
BLOOD! THE MEMORIES OF  
A CENTURY PAST BECOME  
CRYSTAL CLEAR NOW!  
AND WHAT WAS ONCE  
MY GLORY IS NOW  
MY SHAME!

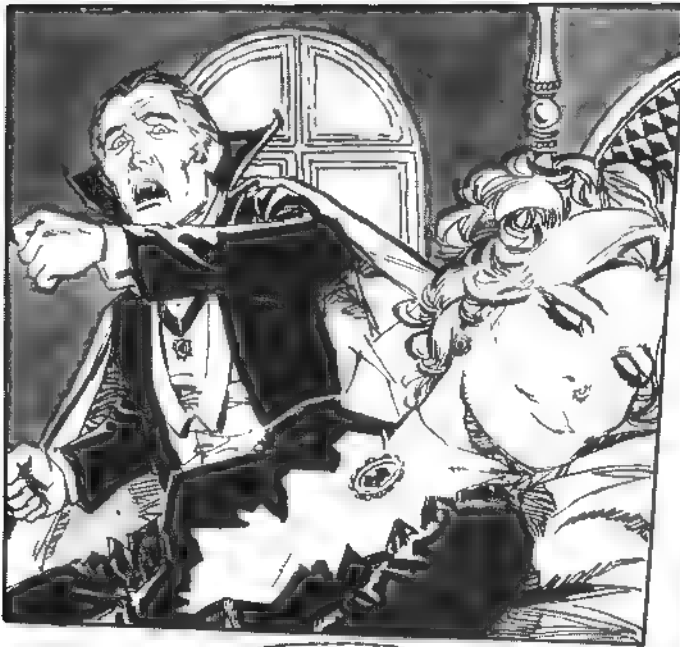
SLEEP WELL, LUCY!  
I SHALL SEE YOU IN  
THE MORNING!

THEN I SHALL  
WAIT FOR MORNING  
EVEN THROUGH MY  
DREAMS! YOU AND THE  
VAN HELSINGS-- YOU  
GAVE ME LIFE! BUT  
THAT WAS NOT MY  
GREATEST BLESSING--  
MY GREATEST  
BLESSING WAS  
YOU!

NO-- YOU WERE  
MY BLESSING!--  
I LOVE YOU!







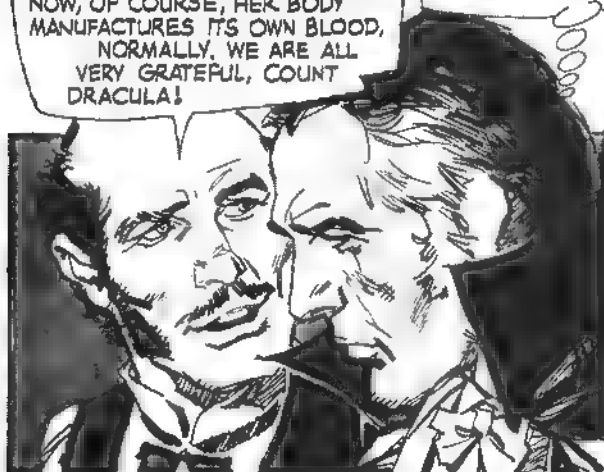
DRACULA--  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?



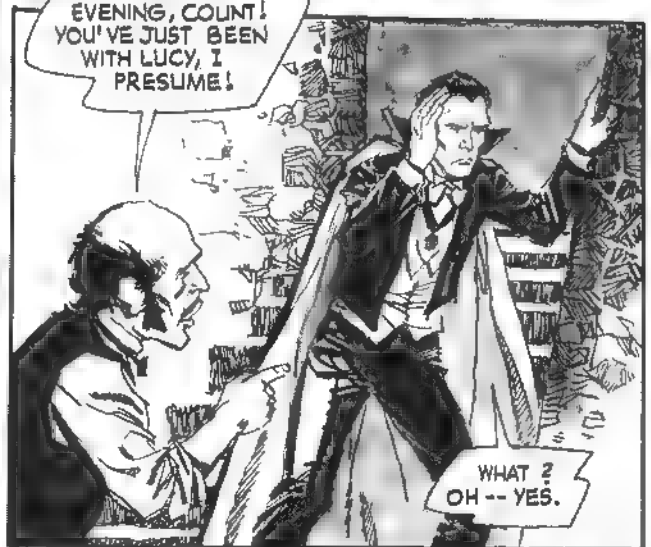
IT - IT'S  
NOTHING! IT'S  
JUST THAT IT'S  
BECOMING LATE, AND  
I THOUGHT I SHOULD  
GO! GOOD NIGHT,  
DARLING!

REMARKABLE THE PROGRESS  
SHE'S MAKING--THANKS TO YOU!  
THE ANTI-VAMPIRISM SERUM I  
DISCOVERED COULD NEVER HAVE  
DONE THE TRICK ALONE! IT WAS  
YOUR **BLOOD SUBSTITUTE  
SERUM** THAT KEPT HER ALIVE!  
NOW, OF COURSE, HER BODY  
MANUFACTURES ITS OWN BLOOD,  
NORMALLY, WE ARE ALL  
VERY GRATEFUL, COUNT  
DRACULA!

THAT'S IT!  
THE BLOOD  
SUBSTITUTE  
SERUM THAT  
VAMPIRELLA TAKES!  
IT CAN CURB MY  
BLOODLUST!



GOOD  
EVENING, COUNT!  
YOU'VE JUST BEEN  
WITH LUCY, I  
PRESUME!

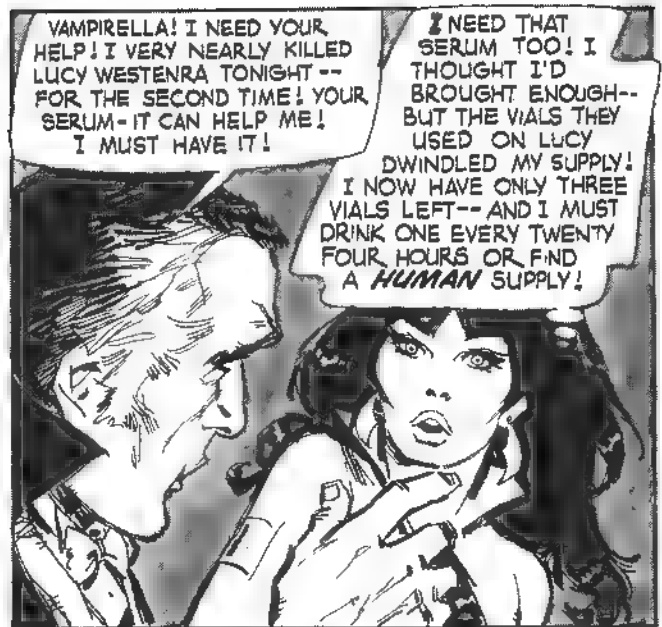


WHAT?  
OH--YES.

AND IN THE ROOM OF THE GIRL WHO CALLS  
HERSELF ELLA NORMANDY...



CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING  
THAT SOMETHING'S GOING TO  
HAPPEN TONIGHT! IN MY  
DRAKULONIAN GARB, I'LL  
BE BETTER PREPARED  
IF TROUBLE DOES  
COME! WHAT--  
WHAT'S THAT?



\* FIRST SEEN IN "DRACULA STILL LIVES"--VAMPIRELLA # 18



WHEN DRACULA HAS LEFT, VAMPIRELLA IS ALONE WITH HER *OWN* MISERY...

HERE GOES!  
NOW THERE IS BUT  
*ONE* LEFT!

ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION, MINA HARKER RISES AS HER HUSBAND SLEEPS...

IT'S PROBABLY  
FOOLISH, BUT I  
SOMEHOW SENSE THAT  
LUCY IS IN GRAVE  
DANGER! IT WON'T  
HURT TO LOOK IN ON  
HER, JUST TO EASE  
MY MIND!

I'M SORRY!  
I DIDN'T MEAN TO  
WAKE YOU! IT'S JUST  
THAT- I WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU!

THAT'S VERY SWEET  
OF YOU, MINA! BUT THERE'S  
NO NEED TO WORRY-- NOT  
WITH DRACULA LOOKING  
AFTER ME!

LUCY?

I'M SO GLAD  
YOU'RE HAPPY AGAIN,  
LUCY! I'LL LET YOU GO  
BACK TO SLEEP NOW!  
GOOD NIGHT!

THANK YOU  
FOR WORRYING  
ABOUT ME!  
GOOD NIGHT!



MINA'S SCREAMS ECHO THROUGH THE MANSION AND...



LUCY!





THE SCREAMS HAVE ALERTED THE OTHERS IN THE MANSION, AND...



MINA!  
MINA!

IT'S COUNT  
DRACULA! HE'S--

A VAMPIRE!

I BELIEVE NOW THAT  
THIS IS THE SAME DRACULA  
WE FOUGHT! IF SO, HE IS  
WANTED FOR CRIMES IN LONDON!  
I SHALL WRITE SCOTLAND YARD  
AND SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO  
HAVE HIM EXTRADITED, TO  
STAND TRIAL THERE, AS ANY  
OTHER CRIMINAL!

ABRAHAM IS  
RIGHT, JONATHAN!  
WE ARE JUST MEN--  
NOT MONSTERS AS  
DRACULA IS!



SHE'S ALIVE! OH MY POOR  
DARLING-- TO SUFFER  
THROUGH THIS AGAIN!

LUCY-- LUCY  
SAVED ME! SHE HEARD  
MY SCREAMS AND  
DRACULA LET GO  
OF ME!

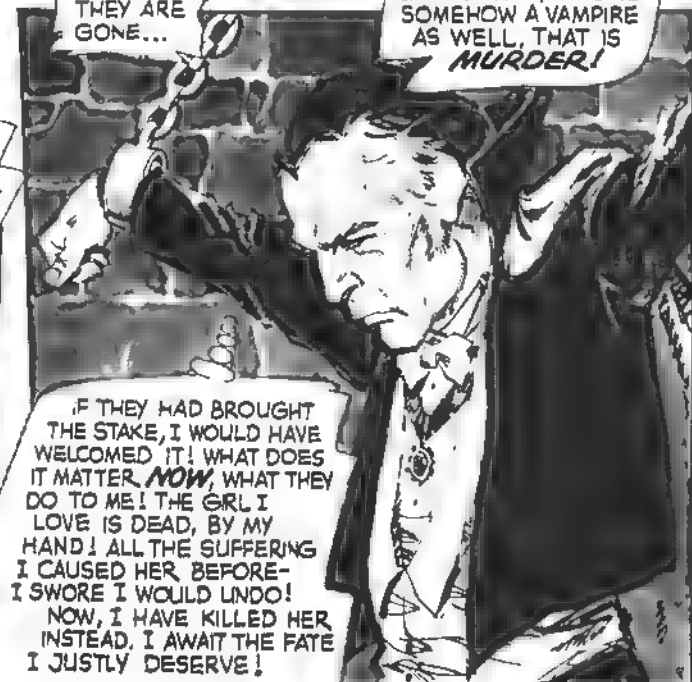
POOR LUCY--  
THE SHOCK MUST  
HAVE KILLED  
HER!



I SAY WE PUT  
A STAKE THROUGH  
HIS HEART!

NO, JONATHAN!  
TO DRIVE A STAKE  
THROUGH THE  
HEART OF A  
DECAYING CORPSE--  
THAT IS ONE THING!  
BUT DO IT TO A  
LIVING MAN, WHO IS  
SOMEHOW A VAMPIRE  
AS WELL, THAT IS  
**MURDER!**

AND WHEN  
THEY ARE  
GONE...



IF THEY HAD BROUGHT  
THE STAKE, I WOULD HAVE  
WELCOMED IT! WHAT DOES  
IT MATTER **NOW**, WHAT THEY  
DO TO ME! THE GIRL I  
LOVE IS DEAD, BY MY  
HAND! ALL THE SUFFERING  
I CAUSED HER, BEFORE--  
I SWORE I WOULD UNDO!  
NOW, I HAVE KILLED HER  
INSTEAD. I AWAIT THE FATE  
I JUSTLY DESERVE!

THE NEXT NIGHT...

MUST HURRY-- I HAVE ONE VIAL OF BLOOD SUBSTITUTE SERUM LEFT, AND THE TENSION HAS MADE ME **DESPERATE** FOR IT! BEFORE TOMORROW NIGHT, I HOPE CONRAD VAN HELSING WILL SENSE MY WORK IS DONE HERE, AND RETURN ME TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!



AH! BACK IN MY **REAL** CLOTHES AGAIN! NOW FOR MY SERUM!



OH NO! I'VE DROPPED IT! MY HANDS WERE TOO SHAKY!

**CRASH!**



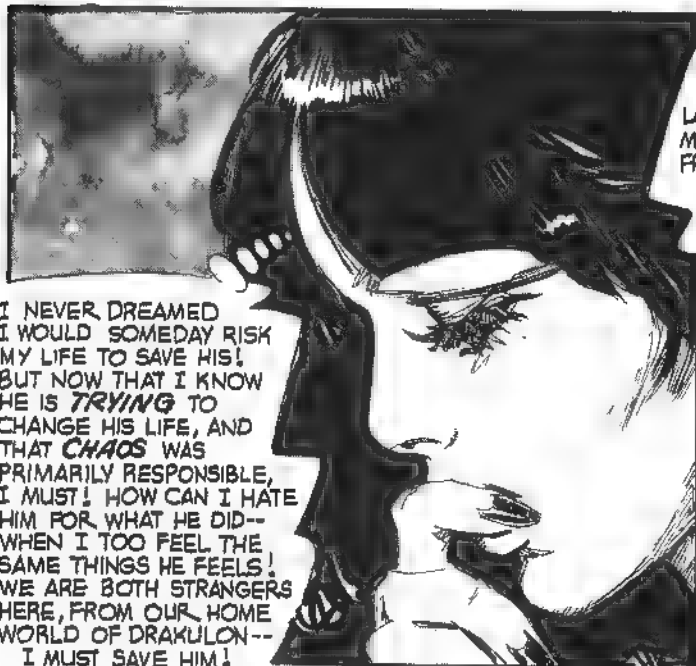
NOW THERE IS **NONE** LEFT! AND SOMEHOW-- IN THIS STATE, I MUST RESCUE DRACULA!



I KNOW IT'S WRONG, WHAT I DO! AND IF I LOSE MY SOUL FOR IT, I LOSE IT GLADLY! FOR MINA, MY WIFE, MUST BE PROTECTED FROM THAT **CREATURE**! HE HAS ENDANGERED HER FOR THE LAST TIME... AND NOW, **DRACULA MUST DIE!**



I NEVER DREAMED I WOULD SOMEDAY RISK MY LIFE TO SAVE HIS! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HE IS **TRYING** TO CHANGE HIS LIFE, AND THAT **CHAOS** WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE, I MUST! HOW CAN I HATE HIM FOR WHAT HE DID-- WHEN I TOO FEEL THE SAME THINGS HE FEELS! WE ARE BOTH STRANGERS HERE, FROM OUR HOME WORLD OF DRAKULON-- I MUST SAVE HIM!





SILENTLY, JONATHAN HARKER MAKES HIS WAY TO THE ROOM IN WHICH COUNT DRACULA IS CHAINED...



SOON, WITH THE HELP OF A CHISEL VAMPIRELLA  
HAS BROUGHT WITH HER...



I SHOULD HAVE YOU LOOSE  
BEFORE JONATHAN HARKER  
REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!

THIS IS FAR  
BETTER THAN I  
DESERVE,  
VAMPIRELLA!



NOW TO GET  
AS FAR FROM VAN  
HELSENG MANSION  
AS WE CAN!

WHEN THEY ARE FAR AWAY, THEY PAUSE TO REST...



OH, VAMPIRELLA, WHAT  
DOES IT MATTER? WHAT  
LIFE IS THERE FOR ME NOW?  
I'VE KILLED LUCY... AND I'VE  
BETRAYED THE TRUST OF THE  
CONJURESS, WHO TRIED TO  
HELP ME! HOW CAN YOU  
KNOW THE WAY I  
FEEL NOW?

BUT I DO KNOW!  
WE ARE BOTH CURSED WITH  
THE DRAKULONIAN NEED!  
ON OUR HOME PLANET,  
RIVERS OF BLOOD FED US!  
HERE WE ARE MURDERERS!  
I DO UNDERSTAND,  
DRACULA! AND I WISH I  
COULD HELP YOU-- BUT  
I CANNOT EVEN HELP  
MYSELF!



SUDDENLY, THE *GODDESS FROM THE STARS*  
APPEARS...



THE CONJURESS!

YOU HAVE FAILED,  
DRACULA! I BROUGHT YOU  
HERE TO ATONE FOR YOUR  
EVIL! YOU COULD HAVE DONE  
THAT BY LIVING AS A NORMAL MAN,  
BY CURBING YOUR BLOODLUST,  
AND BY AIDING LUCY WESTENRA, WHOM  
YOU ONCE MURDERED! INSTEAD, YOU  
KILLED HER AGAIN-- BUT YOU ATONE  
NONETHELESS, THROUGH YOUR GUILT!  
THERE WILL BE OTHER TESTS, DRACULA,  
AND THEY WILL BE HARDER, I FEAR  
BECAUSE OF THIS!

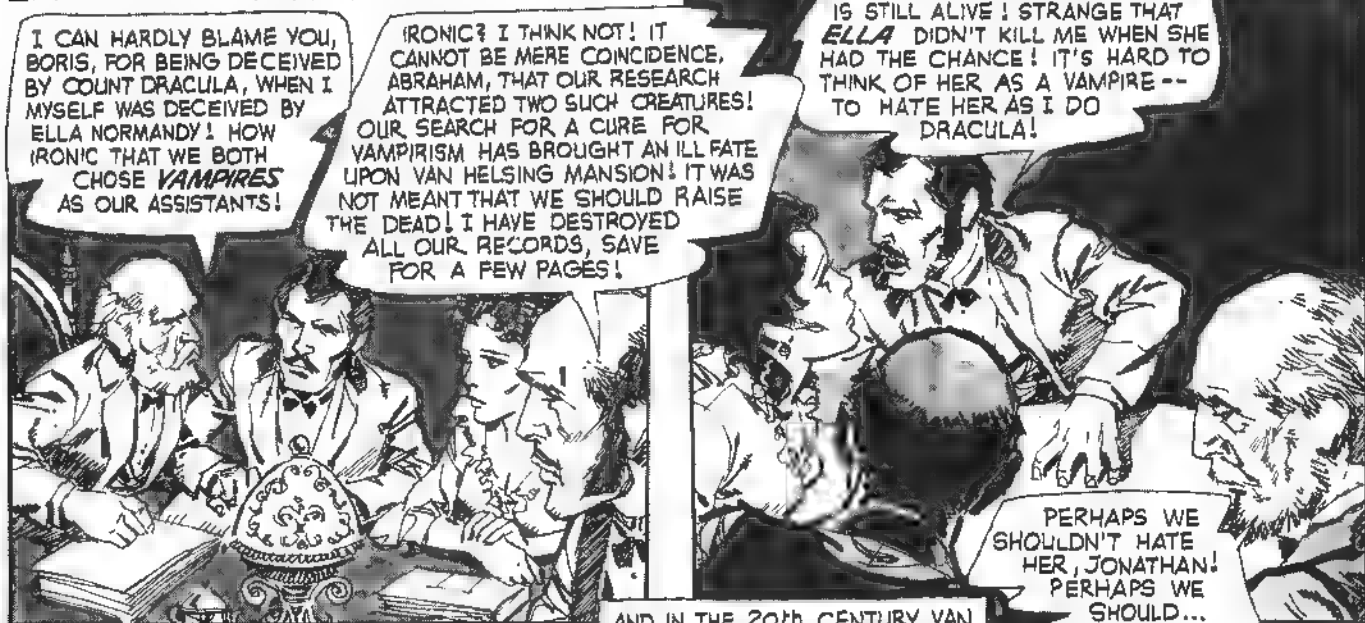
BEGONE, VAMPIRELLA!  
CONRAD VAN HELSENG, OF  
YOUR TIME, SUMMONS YOU  
NOW! AND REMEMBER THAT  
YOU TOO FAILED, AND GAVE  
INTO THE TEMPTATION  
OF EVIL!



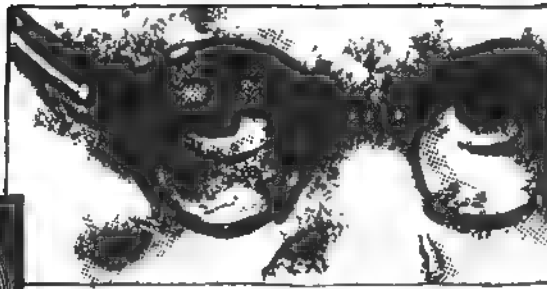
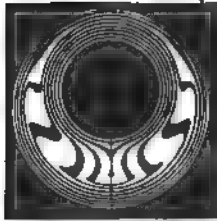
I'M  
VANISHING!



**EPILOG : IN THE VAN HELSING MANSION OF 1897...**

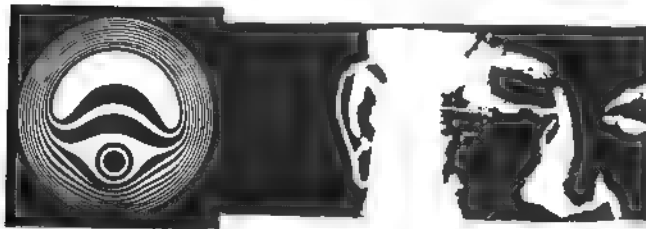
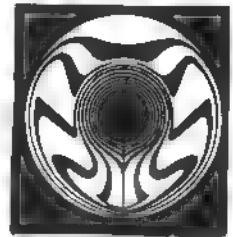


**NEXT: SLITHERERS of the SAND!**



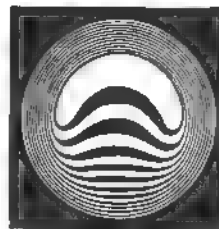
"ADJUST PSYCH-SENDER TO  
DRIFTOUT FREQUENCY.  
DONE? GOOD. BRACE YOUR-  
SELF, QUESTER. YOU PHASE  
OUT 'IN TEN SECONDS."

"YOUR SENDER IS ON  
FREQUENCY FIVE, QUESTER?  
GOOD. YOU'LL ACHIEVE DRIFT-  
OUT RIGHT WITH YOUR  
HUSBAND."

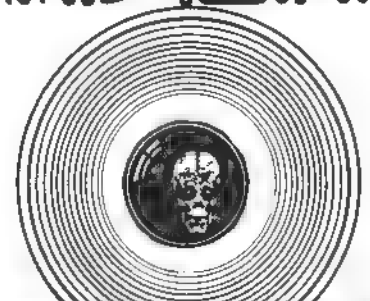
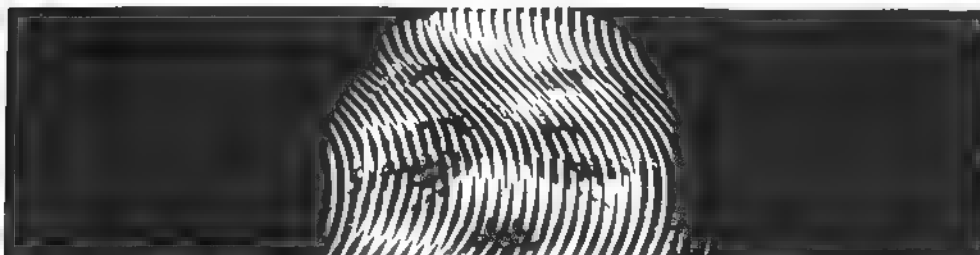


"NOW REMEMBER, THIS IS NOT TO  
ESCALATE TO A PRIVATE ID WAR  
BETWEEN YOU, IT IS A PSYCHO-  
LOGICAL EXPERIMENT."

"ONCE REAWAKENED, YOU'LL  
GIVE US ALL THE IMPRESSIONS  
YOU RECEIVED OF EXPLORING  
YOUR OWN SUBCONSCIOUS.  
AND WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO  
LEARN WHO IS THE STRONGER  
PSYCHICALLY... MAN OR WOMAN."

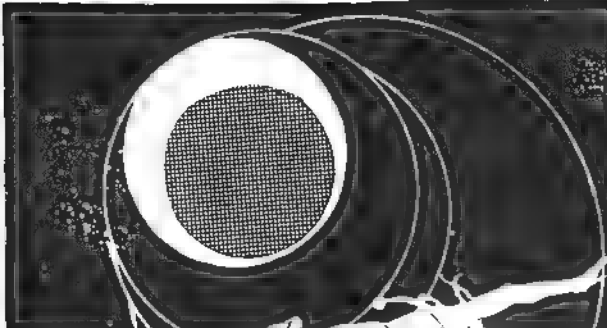


# GENDER BENDER




## A TOMB OF THE GODS EPISODE!

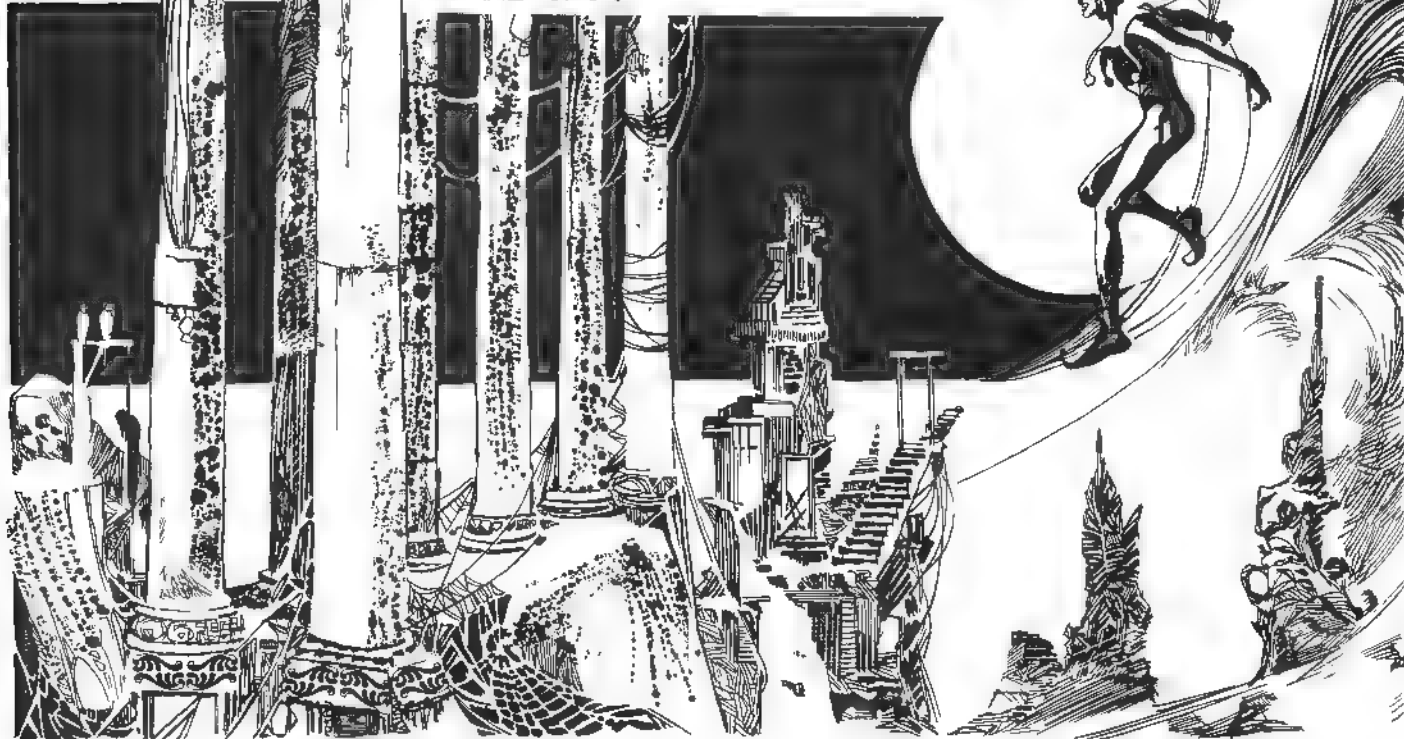




I'VE ALWAYS HAD A WISH-FANTASY OF EXPLOR-  
ING OUTER SPACE. I EXPERIENCE IT NOW,  
VOYAGING PAST GALAXIES ON THE WAY TO MY  
OWN SUBCONSCIOUS.



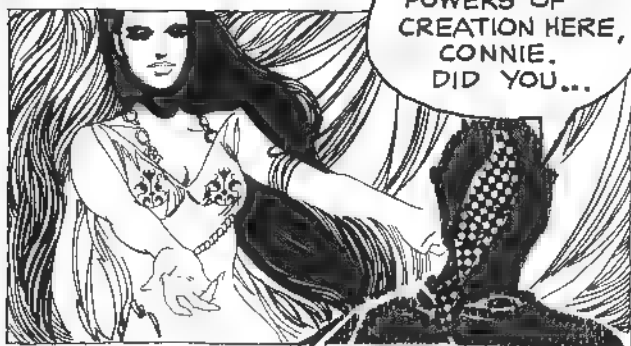
"SUCCESS! DRIFTOUT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED!  
I'M ATTIRED AS A JESTER (SELF-  
DERISION OF MY NAME, QUESTER?)  
SINKING INTO A MACABRE GARISH LAND  
I RECOGNIZE AND YET NOT RECOGNIZE.  
NO SIGN OF CONNIE YET, BUT HER  
PSYCHE SHOULD OCCUPY THIS UNIVERSE  
COMPOSED OF BOTH OUR MENTAL  
MAKE-UPS!



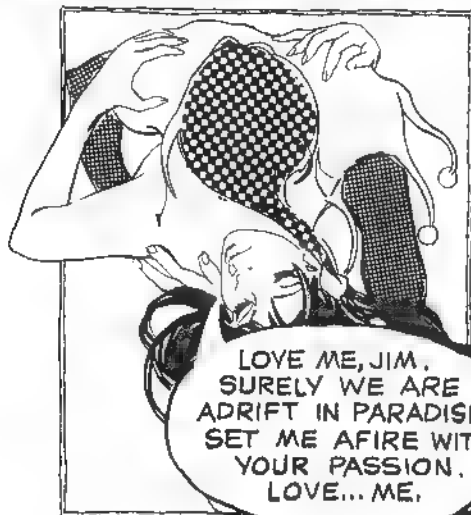
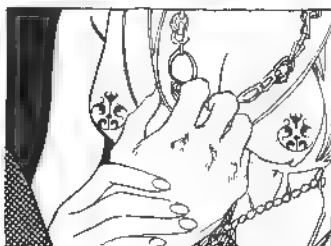


LOOKING  
FOR ME, JIM?  
OH, HOW DARLING  
YOU LOOK. I...  
I FEEL I NEED  
YOU VERY MUCH  
NOW. COME  
TO ME.

"I TURN AND SHE IS POSED  
BESIDE A MASSIVE MARBLE  
PILLAR, A SOFT CREATURE  
OF ESQUISITE FEMININE  
BEAUTY, MUCH LOVELIER  
THAN HER REALITY-SHELL  
OF APPROACHING MIDDLE  
AGE. IS THIS NEW FORM  
HER CREATION?"

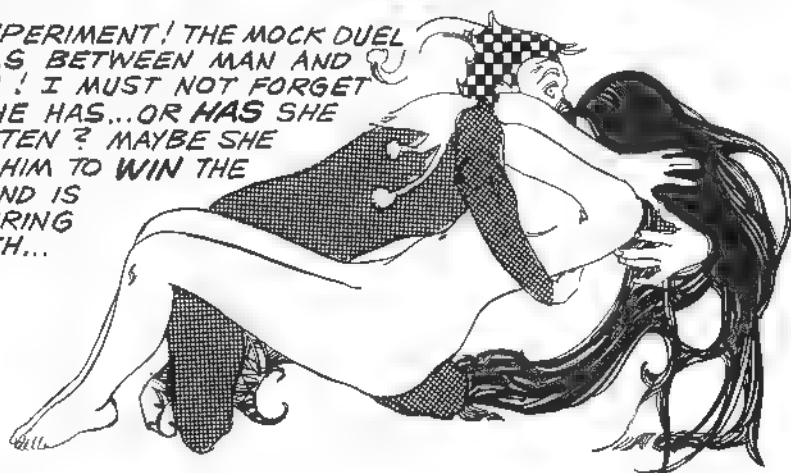


WE'VE  
POWERS OF  
CREATION HERE,  
CONNIE.  
DID YOU...



LOVE ME, JIM.  
SURELY WE ARE  
ADRIFT IN PARADISE.  
SET ME AFIRE WITH  
YOUR PASSION.  
LOVE... ME.

THE EXPERIMENT! THE MOCK DUEL  
OF WILLS BETWEEN MAN AND  
WOMAN! I MUST NOT FORGET  
LIKE SHE HAS...OR HAS SHE  
FORGOTTEN? MAYBE SHE  
WANTS HIM TO WIN THE  
DUEL, AND IS  
CONQUERING  
ME WITH...  
WITH...





WHAT'S  
WRONG, JIM?  
WHY DID YOU  
ABRUPTLY TURN  
SO COLD?  
DO I REPEL  
YOU?



HOW *COULD*  
YOU, LOOKING  
LIKE THAT? BUT  
MAYBE THAT'S  
WHAT YOU PLANNED.  
YOU MIGHT THINK  
IT "CUTE" TO SUBDUED  
ME, PROVIDING,  
IN THIS TEST,  
THAT THE FEMALE  
IS SUPERIOR.



PERHAPS YOU'RE THE ONE WHO  
DREAMED ME A CLOWN, *NOT* MY  
OWN SUBCONSCIOUS!



MISTRUST, DARLING?  
I THOUGHT OUR MAR-  
RIAGE WAS PERFECT.

NO HARM IN THAT. GOD, PERHAPS I'M JUST PARANOID,  
BASICALLY INSECURE. I REALLY HAVEN'T SEEN ANY  
OF THE INNATE HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE SEXES THE  
DOCTORS PREDICTED. EXCEPT MY OWN! WELL, I'LL  
SUBLIMATE THAT, AND  
JUST DANCE.

IF YOU'LL  
NOT LOVE,  
WOULD YOU  
CARE TO  
DANCE?



"THE CHAUVINIST-LIBERATIONIST  
REVOLUTIONS OF 1975 ARE INSIGNIFICANT  
AND ALIEN HERE. CONNIE AND I DANCE  
ON SOFT BREEZES ACROSS UNIVERSES.

SUDDENLY SHE STOPS.

I STARE TRANSFIXED IN SURPRISE AS SHE METAMORPHISES INTO A HUNDRED CLOWNS WITH A HUNDRED FACES. JUBILANT, DEPRESSED. HYSTERICAL.

I CAN BE A JESTER TOO. WATCH ME CHANGE, JIM.

MY EYES ARE BURSTING INTO FLAME. WE'RE FLOATING NOW, DOWN TOWARD SOME FANTASTIC BARREN ASTEROID.

CONNIE! WHAT... ARE YOU DOING? IN GOD'S NAME **WHAT** ARE YOU CONJURING UP?

A  
THOUSAND  
CHANGES NOW!  
HARPIES, SORCE-  
RESSES, WITCHES!  
BIZARRE SHE-LIFE-  
FORMS I CANNOT  
COMPREHEND. SHE  
SHRIEKS AND  
LEERS BEHIND  
INDESCRIBABLE  
PSYCHIC BEINGS.



GAZE UPON ME,  
JIM QUESTER. SEE  
HOW **BEAUTIFUL**  
I AM. HOW GREAT  
AND **SUPERIOR** MY  
WILL IS TO YOURS...

FINALLY SHE ASSUMES CYCLOPEAN  
FORM. I AM A PYGMY AGAINST  
THE CREAMY WHITE VASTNESS  
OF HER BODY. SHE HAS LEARNED  
TO USE THE NEW POWERS GRANT-  
ED HER IN THIS 10-DIMENSION WELL.





**I UTILIZE MY OWN NEW-  
FOUND ABILITIES, AND  
BLANK OUT THE SCENE. I  
CAST HER INTO AN EERIE  
MOONLESS GRAVEYARD  
OF MARKERS, SKELETONS  
AND MOANING WINDS.**



WHERE AM I ?  
GOT TO...THINK.



**SHE SCREAMS AS CLAMMY HANDS  
REACH FROM INKY TOMB DARK-  
NESS. MY HANDS! I KNOW  
I HAVE CAUGHT HER BY  
SURPRISE. CONNIE IS HORRIFIED  
BY THE ALIEN FORM I'VE  
ADOPTED.**



**I STEAL FROM FRAGILE,  
PARALYZED LIPS.**

**THEN I RIP OFF HER SINGLE MIST  
GARMENT AS SHE DROPS SCREAMING  
INTO A FIERY ABYSS.**



**SHE PLUMMETS DOWN A BILLION  
LIGHT YEARS OF SEARING PAIN TO  
STRIKE THE BRUTAL COARSENESS  
OF MY OUTSTRETCHED SMOULDER-  
ING COAL HAND.**



ETERNITIES LATER, OUR BATTLE HALTS, WE FIND OURSELVES DRAWN TO A DARK YET BEAUTIFUL WORLD.



WE ARE GUARDED BY A GRIM FACELESS ARMY ON A PLAIN STRETCHING TO UNENDINGNESS. WE SENSE WE ARE AWAITING SOMETHING.



JIM...BACK THERE...WHY DID WE *FIGHT* SO ?

IT WAS LIKE SOME GREAT INNER ...*EGO* FORCE TOOK HOLD OF ME. AND YOU, IS SUCH THE BASE OF THE HUMAN PERSONALITY ?



*THEN, THEY MATERIALIZE!*  
MYSTIC, POWERFUL  
INCREDIBLY ANCIENT.

WE ARE THE *OLDS*, WHO HAVE DWELLED WITHIN MAN'S SOUL- RECESSES ERE HE BEGAN. WE ARE SUBSERVIENT TO HIS CONSCIOUS SELF, PROVIDING PERSONALITY, BELIEFS, DREAMS...

BUT NOW YOU DEGRADE  
OUR POWERS EVEN BEYOND OUR  
UNDERSTANDING! THE SCIENTISTS OF  
**CONSCIOUS-LAND** HAVE UNLEASHED  
THE SOUL-WORKINGS WE DID NOT  
CREATE. **EVIL** WORKINGS! FOOLS!  
CAN YOU NOT CHANGE? KNOW  
YOU NOT HOW YOUR DUEL  
**MUST** END?

AT THE OLD WOMAN'S  
BECKONING, MYRIAD  
FORMS OF WARPED  
MALIGNANT EVIL  
SWARM FROM THE  
LANDSCAPE. THEY  
ATTACK CONNIE, AND  
NOW START FOR ME.

"OBSERVE WELL,"  
THE OLDS CRY, "THE  
FRUITS OF YOUR  
OWN DESTRUCTIVE  
IMAGINATIONS."

WE DEPART NOW,  
LEAVING YOU A DECISION.  
LEAVE IN PEACE AND TELL  
YOUR FELLOW HUMANS  
WHAT YOU SAW, OR  
**CONTINUE** YOUR DUEL...  
TO A **PRE-DETERMINED**  
**END!**



*I SPREAD MY ARMS AND A WAVE OF DECAY ASSAULTS HER. HALF HER BODY COMMENCES TO ROT AWAY.*

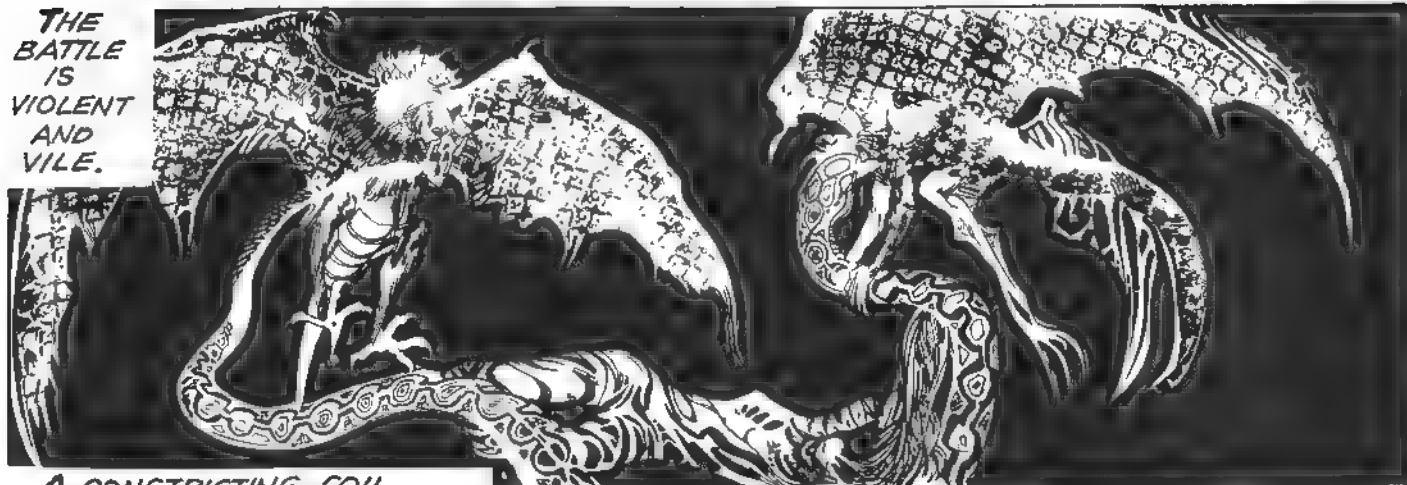
*ONCE ALONE, THE EGO FORCE RETURNS. CONNIE IS A FANGED SERPENT, SEEKING OUT MY THROAT.*

*I GRIP HER AND HURL HER TO THE ROCKY PLAIN. ALREADY I CAN SENSE HER IMPENDING TRANSFORMATION. I PREPARE BY AGAIN TRANSFORMING MYSELF.*

*A MORE HIDEOUS DEADLY SERPENT-GUISE THAN BEFORE. BUT NOW I AM A PAIR OF DEMON BIRDS WITH RAZOR BEAKS AND CLAWS. I ATTACK.*



THE  
BATTLE  
IS  
VIOLENT  
AND  
VILE.



A CONSTRICTING COIL  
KILLS ONE OF ME, BUT  
ONE WINGED HORROR  
STILL SLASHES AND CLAWS  
THE SHE-SNAKE-THING.

SHE IS  
DYING. SHE  
CHANGES. I ASSUME  
THE SIMPLER FORM  
OF A SPARROW AND  
HOVER ABOVE HER  
BLEEDING BODY.  
REALIZATION IS A  
KNIFE THRUST IN MY  
SOUL. I'VE MUR-  
DERED MY WIFE.  
WHY?

THEN I SIT... STARING AT THE  
WOMAN I LOVED, IN MY  
SPARROW FORM! I FEEL HER  
BLOOD TRICKLE ONTO ME!  
**ELECTRIFYING ME!**

I SHIVER! THEN  
COLLAPSE!...AND  
I KNOW THAT I, TOO  
AM DYING! HER  
BLOOD, LIKE A MILLION  
VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY  
IS SHOCKING MY VERY  
LIFE FORCE OUT OF EXIST-  
ENCE! IRONIC, BUT IN MY  
LAST THOUGHTS ALL I CAN  
THINK OF..CONNIE, I'M SORR...

WHAT STRANGE DEFECT EXISTS  
IN THE HUMAN PERSONALITY  
MAKING EACH AND EVERY ONE  
OF US **HURT** THE ONES  
WE LOVE?



# VAMPI'S BOOK REVIEWS

Book No. 1, of

## PRINCE VALIANT

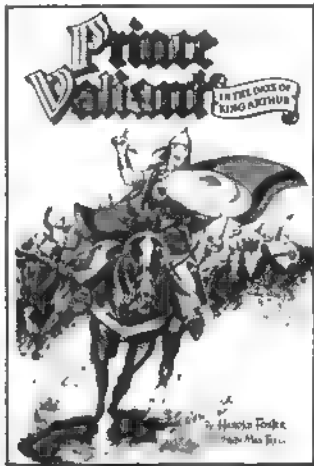
by Hal Foster, with Max Trell  
228 pgs. Hastings House, \$3.95

The late Duke of Windsor once called Hal Foster's Sunday strip, PRINCE VALIANT, "The greatest work of English Literature produced in this century." Small wonder.

Since 1937, Harold R. Foster has scribed forth weekly chronicles of Prince Val's saga, taking him from teen lad-hood, through war, marriage, family-rearing, and bombastic battle adventure.

Hastings House saw what a master epic in the making PRINCE VALIANT is, and began putting out this series of (to date, 7) books, back in 1951. If this first book doesn't whet your taste for the rest, someone has definitely drained you of your blood. Each page is captivatingly illustrated with panels from the original strip, and with text adaptation by one Max Trell. There are a little over 350 illustrations.

The pictures are the magic of it. Every sword-hilt, shield, and link of chain-mail was thoroughly researched for authenticity, and the adventure is in the grand style of History's dreamy sagas, magicians and sorcerers, falconry, jousts and quests for the fair princess Ilene, that led lad Val to Norse and Celtic kingdoms, scaling castles à la Doug Fairbanks, fighting with blade and cunning, and roaming with Viking sea-rovers and worthy knights of Arthur's Table Round. It's a truly great book. Righteth ye on!



## A History of the COMIC STRIP

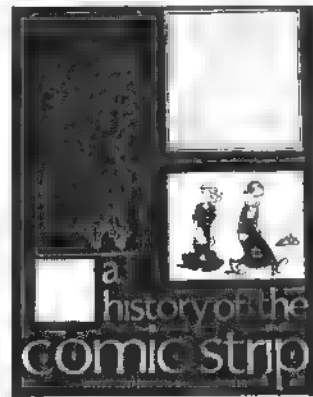
by Pierre Couperie  
and Maurice Horn  
Crown, \$3.95  
252 pp.

"Everything you've always wanted to know about the comic strip, but didn't know who to ask," would be a good subtitle for this tome.

A stunning product of 6 French co-authors, it's a comprehensive, illustration-laden book you can proudly show your art teacher (particularly if he's the kind of snobbish oaf that says comics aren't "Aahart,"—that's "Art," to us common folk). And you can use its statistics to show any stuffy English teacher that TERRY AND THE PIRATES, STEVE CANYON, ORPHAN ANNIE, and LIL ABNER are about the most widely-read popular novels of all time.

Those to get the most from this book are serious fans of comic art, nostalgia buffs, sociologists, and most anyone who wants to become a cartoonist. It deals with all aspects of comic strips, past and present, native or foreign, from drawing board to who reads 'em.

Among the hundreds of illustrations is a full-page splash illo of BUCK ROGERS, drawn by Frank Frazetta, the well-known cover artist for CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA. That's not the only reason to buy this 252-page book. There are at least 250 others—as well as forewords by the "Rembrandt of the Comcs," Milton Caniff, who draws STEVE CANYON, and Burne Hogarth, who drew TARZAN.



The Tandem Book of

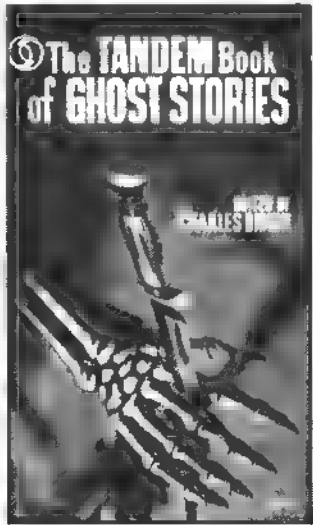
## GHOST STORIES

Edited by Charles Birkin  
192 pgs. Tandem, 50¢

The ghosts in this book are just about all British. The paperback comes from England, though two of the stories are written by Americans. This reviewer is unfamiliar with any of the authors represented, which is probably just as well. Stories and anthologies should sell themselves on the strength of the writing, not the name of the author.

There are twelve stories in the collection, and all seem to have the old British reserve "Out of the Earth" has the most horrendous apparition of the dozen, and is the least strong story. My personal favorite is a yarn about an English vicar and his loving wife, who regularly rehabilitate wayward ghosts, and encourage them to go to church. It's the lead story, "The Lost, Strayed, Stolen," by M.F.K. Fisher, an American, and it was first published in The New Yorker magazine. Yes, The New Yorker.

This is mostly English slice-of-life, or mainstream writing, to set up the supernatural elements for believability, before the inexplicable Things happen. A couple of the stories are more like studies in psychology with supernatural overtones, as with H.R. Wakefield's "The Third Coach." It's worth reading.



## THE PHANTOM

by Lee Falk & Ray Moore  
82 pgs. Nostalgia Press, \$5.95

THE PHANTOM is a costumed-hero strip for people who don't like costumed heroes. He's more than just a guy in purple and black long-johns, brandishing a skull-ring, and perpetuating the rumor that he's 400 years old, so gullible tribesmen of Africa will heed his judgement. For one thing, he was created in 1936 by Lee Falk, and drawn by Ray Moore.

THE PHANTOM ranks among the 12 most popular comic strips of all time, and is read in 63 foreign countries.

Why? Mainly, one suspects, because of Falk's dapper dialogue, not often seen in sockemup strips. Without this extra something, The Ghost Who Walks would be just another Saturday-afternoon serial hero. The charm to reading THE PHANTOM book (made of a complete 1938 adventure called "The Prisoner of the Himalayas") is watching the sleek plot and witty dialogue unfold as in a well paced, sophisticated adult movie of that day.

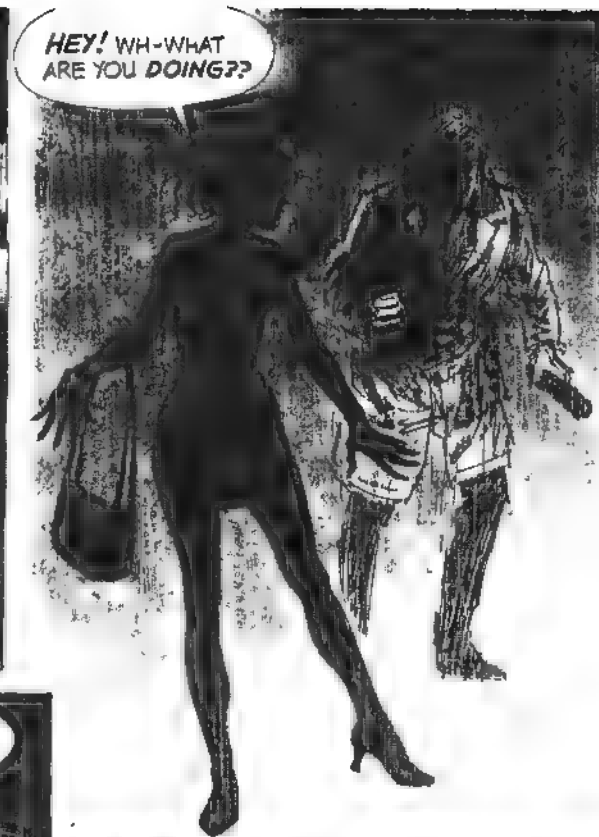
A droll example: One "Count Bart," professional villain, explains his insidious plan to take over all India, to which the PHANTOM smirkingly replies: "I knew you were hard and shrewd, but I didn't think you'd be balmy as well." You tell 'im Old Chap!

Or, when a matron has viewed THE PHANTOM in her bedroom, her word is doubted, and she's advised by her daughter to avoid Welsh rarebit, for; "Every time you eat Welsh rarebit, you have nightmares!" My word!





PROLOGUE:



AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...



# LOVE IS NO GAME

NO, JOHN!  
WHY HAVE YOU  
DONE THIS?

I DIDN'T  
MEAN YOU ANY  
HARM! I  
ONLY--



NOW, I AM FILLED WITH FEAR, UNABLE TO MOVE... UNAWARE OF EXACTLY WHAT LIES AHEAD. YET, WHAT HAVE I DONE? HAVE I BROUGHT THIS UPON MYSELF? NO, THIS **CAN'T** BE MY FAULT! I'VE DONE NOTHING **WRONG**... NOW I THINK **BACK**..

BACK TO THE BEGINNING...  
HEART-BROKEN. DAN WAS GONE.  
AND MY LIFE SEEMED EMPTY.

DAN, OH, DAN!  
IF ONLY YOU WOULD  
**COME BACK!**

DAN HAD LIVED RIGHT NEXT DOOR. WE HAD BEEN  
GOING STEADY FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. BUT THEN, HE  
AND HIS PARENTS MOVED TO CALIFORNIA. AND I KNEW  
I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.



THEN, ONE AFTERNOON, THE NEW FAMILY MOVED INTO DAN'S OLD HOUSE... AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW JOHN...

AND IN A TWINKLING, MY HEARTACHE BEGAN TO VANISH!



I PASSED HIS HOUSE THAT NEXT MORNING, WHILE HE WAS RAKING THE LAWN... AND I TRIED TO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION.

HE HAD BRUSHED ME OFF. WHY?

I CONFIDED MY PROBLEM TO MY BEST FRIEND, GWEN...



OH, GWEN, I REALLY WANT TO GET TO KNOW HIM! BUT HE'S BEEN HERE FOR TWO DAYS NOW, AND HE'S HARDLY EVEN SPOKEN TO ME!

WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I GET HIM TO STOP IGNORING ME!



WAIT UNTIL HE'S OUTSIDE SOMEDAY... THEN PRETEND YOU NEED HIS **HELP** IN DOING SOMETHING!

OH NO! I COULDN'T DO THAT! IT... IT WOULDN'T BE HONEST!

THAT'S HOW YOU CAN GET HIS ATTENTION!





PERAAPS GWEN WAS RIGHT, PERHAPS THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET HIS ATTENTION, BUT STILL, I REFUSED TO DO IT... REFUSED TO CHEAPEN MYSELF BY USING SNEAKY, UNDERHANDED TRICKS! DAYS PASSED, AND I CONTINUED TO SIMPLY HOPE THAT, FOR **SOME** REASON, HE WOULD STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH ME...



THREE DAYS WENT BY...AND FINALLY I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER...



IN A SECOND, HE WAS THERE, AT MY SIDE, HELPING ME UP...



THEN HIS ARM WAS AROUND MY SHOULDER... AND HE WAS LEADING ME HOME...





THERE! YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS A NICE KITCHEN YOU HAVE HERE!

WOULD YOU CARE FOR A **SOFT DRINK?** A **SANDWICH?** OR **SOMETHING?**



OH NO! NO! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW!

BUT...



OH, I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO THEN... WHERE TO GO... SO I STAYED HOME, IN MY ROOM, AND CRIED...

THEN, I LOOKED OUT MY WINDOW... AND SAW JOHN, HEADING OUT TOWARD THE WOODS BEHIND HIS HOUSE...

I COULDN'T CONTAIN MY CURIOSITY. I HAD TO FIND OUT. I WENT OUT AND FOLLOWED HIM... CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN...



WHAT IF HE **KNOWS** IT WAS A TRICK? HOW CAN I EVER FACE HIM AGAIN?



WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'S HE GOING?



HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE **TALL TREES!**

AND FINALLY, I SAW IT... HE WAS CARVING MY NAME ON A TREE...

I COULDN'T HOLD MYSELF BACK... I RACED OUT OF HIDING...



HE... HE **DOES** CARE ABOUT ME!

BUT HE'S **SHY!** THAT **MUST** BE THE ANSWER!



**JOHN!** IT'S **TRUE!** YOU **HAVE** BEEN THINKING ABOUT ME!

**DOROTHY!**

HE TOOK ME IN HIS STRONG, MASCULINE ARMS...

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS! NOT YET!

BUT, YES! I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU...



HE SQUEEZED ME HARDER AND HARDER...

...EVER SINCE YOU FAKED THAT FALL! YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL WOMEN! WANTON AND IMMORAL!

JOHN! YOU'RE HURTING ME!



STILL HE SQUEEZED ME HARDER ... AND JUST BEFORE I PASSED OUT, I HEARD HIM SAY...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE I COULD LOVE! BUT NO!

YOU DESERVE TO DIE -- JUST AS THEY DID!



NOW I AM AWAKE AGAIN, BUT I CANNOT MOVE ... JOHN DID SOMETHING TO MY BACK! I AM ALIVE, BUT I KNOW I WON'T BE FOR LONG...



AND AS I LOOK AROUND, I SEE THE OTHER NAMES JOHN CARVED IN THE TREES... LILLY... MOLLY... WHO ARE THEY??...



AND ON THE GROUND IN FRONT OF THOSE TREES, MOUNDS OF DIRT... THEIR GRAVES. AND NOW, BELOW MY NAME, JOHN IS DIGGING MY GRAVE...

OH, MY GOD. NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT CAN'T!

DIG IT, DOROTHY! JOIN THE CROWD!

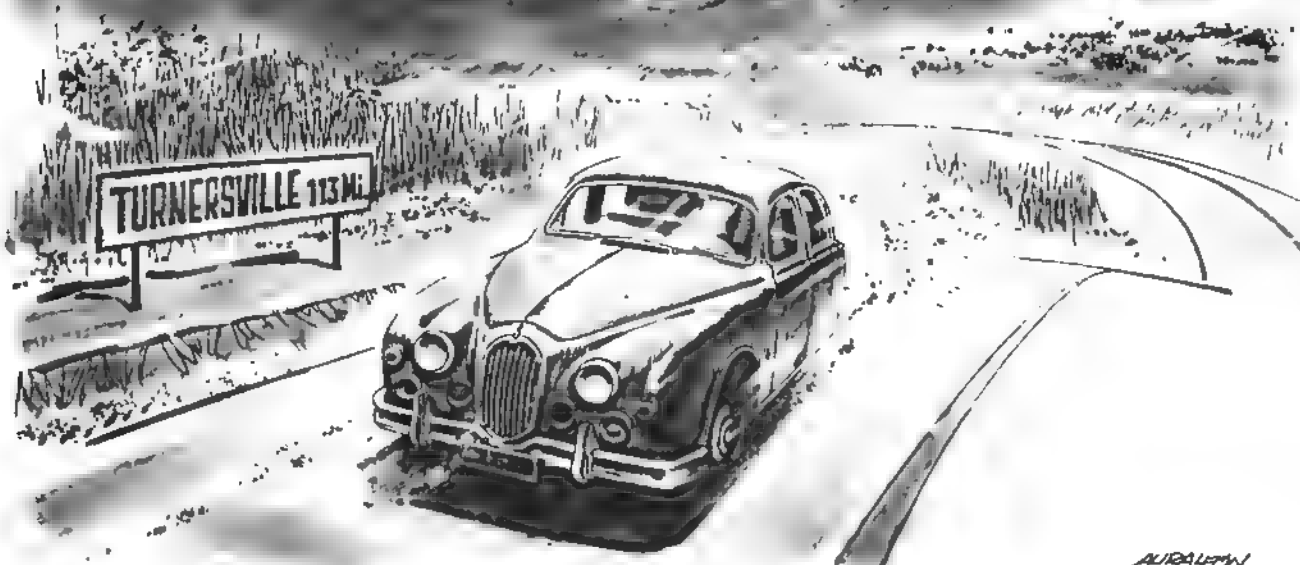






MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE, TERROR-LOVERS, AND **EYE** THIS LITTLE TALE ABOUT A SKEPTIC WHO LEARNS THAT **LOOKS** CAN INDEED **KILL**! IT'S **HOT**, AND HIS SWEAT BURNS HIS EYELIDS, HALF-SHUT BY THE BLINDING SUN! BUT HIS **VISION** IS IMPAIRED IN MORE THAN **THIS**! **SOL PLOTKIN**, NOW DRIVING WEST ON INTERSTATE 60, IS AN ARCHETYPAL SALESMAN, A MANIPULATOR OF THE OLD SCHOOL WHOSE SHELL GAME IS PLAYED WITH **PEOPLE**. HIS **VIEW-POINT** WILL CHANGE, HOWEVER, WITH AN APOCALYPTIC REVELATION THAT IS SURE TO BE AN...

# EYE OPENER!



AURALEON

**DAMN** THIS CONVENTION! ALL OF HIS OTHER FLUNKIES JUST **DYING** TO GO, AND OLD MAN BLAU PICKS **ME**! I'M HIS BEST SALESMAN, HE THINKS! SO HE SENDS **ME**-- LIKE HE WAS DOING ME A **FAVOR**!



DRIVING, HE FEELS HIS DAY-OLD SHIRT TIGHTEN WETLY AROUND HIM, AND HIS LACK OF SLEEP CATCH UP WITH HIM...



100 MILES? NEVER MAKE IT TO THE HOTEL IN TURNERSVILLE **TONIGHT**! BETTER FIND A PLACE TO CRASH FOR THE NIGHT!

SUMMER AFTERNOONS IN THE M DWEST... AS HOT AS A BLOWTORCH AND AS SILENT AS A BURNING CANDLE... SILENT ENOUGH TO EVOKE A SCENE FROM HEAT-HAZED CONSCIOUSNESS...



SHOULD'VE DONE THAT **YEARS** AGO, HEH, HEH... WISH I COULD SEE HER FACE WHEN SHE FINDS OUT THERE AREN'T GONNA BE ANY MORE ALIMONY PAYMENTS!

OF COURSE, DOING WITHOUT HER HAD ITS DISADVANTAGES. THERE WERE CERTAIN **CREATURE COMFORTS** HE WAS ABLE TO ENJOY WITH HER. NO MATTER, HE'D COMPENSATE WHEREVER HE'D SPEND THE NIGHT. HE WOULD GET HIMSELF ANOTHER **CREATURE**...



THERE'S A GRUESOME LITTLE JOINT! BUT FROM HERE IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S *THAT* OR NOTHING, I GUESS! OH, WELL...



I REMEMBER THOSE FLICKS WHERE THE TEENAGE COUPLE STAYS THE NIGHT IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE AND THE GUY KEEPS SAYING, 'ANY PORT IN A STORM!' LOOKS LIKE (SHUDDER!) I GOT ME A PORT! I GOT A 50-50 CHANCE... HEADS I GET A MONSTER'S HAUNT...

... TAILS, I HAVE A DECENT PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT!



WOW!

YES?



A LITTLE PITCH TO GET MY FOOT IN THE DOOR...

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MISS, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE -- ER -- TAKEN THE WRONG TURN BACK THERE, AND, ER, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE A MOTEL ALONG THIS ROAD FOR AT LEAST A HUNDRED MILES! I WAS WONDERING, UH, IF YOU COULD P-PLT ME UP FOR THE NIGHT... UM, I'M WILLING TO PAY...

I DUNNO, MISTER... LEMME TALK IT OVER WITH GRANDMA A MINUTE!

SHE CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HER AS SHE DISAPPEARS INTO THE DARK RECESSES... HE SHIVERS ON THE PORCH, WAITING, WHILE THE SKY ACKNOWLEDGES THE HORROR-MOVIE CLICHÉ BY STREAKING WITH LIGHTNING - A THUNDER STORM! FINALLY, SHE REAPPEARS...

SURE, SURE --- I UNDERSTAND!

OKAY, MISTER! WE CAN PUT YOU UP! BUT JUST FOR TONIGHT!

THIS IS GRANDMA, DON'T MIND HER. SHE'S **BLIND**... ER... GRANDMA DON'T GET AROUND MUCH, AND, UH, WE DON'T GET MUCH MONEY AROUND HERE 'CEPTIN' HER PENSIONS AN STUFF, AND SO I WAS WONDERIN' -- WE LL, WE'LL NEED THAT MONEY **NOW**, MISTER!

AS HE PRESSES FIFTEEN DOLLARS INTO THE GIRL'S HAND, PLOTKIN'S AVARICIOUS PASSION FOR BEAUTY OVERWHELMS EVEN HIS AVARICIOUS PASSION FOR MONEY...

UH... OKAY, SURE!

SHE ELUDES HIS PRYING GAZE, AND STEPS LIGHTLY THROUGH A SWINGING DOOR... SHE RETURNS WITH A TRAY, NOT, HOWEVER, DRY-ICE SMOKING LIKE A MOVIE WITCH'S BREW. THE CLICHE WASN'T HOLDING UP ALTOGETHER...

BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS PLOTKIN. SOL PLOTKIN. I SELL SHOES.

THAT'S NICE. I'M WENDY. COFFEE, MISTER... PLOTKIN?

THANKS.

Y' SEE, GRANDMA AND I DON'T HAVE NO USE FOR MOST ORDINARY FOLK. WE KEEP PRETTY MUCH TO OURSELVES. SO WE DON'T LIKE --

YOU'RE VERY HANDSOME, MR. PLOTKIN!



A NICE COMPLIMENT, BUT A LITTLE UNSETTLING, COMING FROM A BLIND WOMAN... UNNERVING ENOUGH TO GIVE PLOTKIN A START, SPILLING HIS COFFEE...

TH-THANK YOU --OOPS!

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. WENDY WILL TAKE CARE OF IT LATER, MR. PLOTKIN.

B-BUT... BUT...?

YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I CAN SEE, AREN'T YOU, MR. PLOTKIN? IT'S VERY SIMPLE. **THESE** ARE MY EYES

DISBELIEVING, PLOTKIN MANAGES TO GET OUT A "GOODNIGHT" AND FOLLOWS THE LOVELY GIRL UP THE STAIRS...

DON'T WORRY NONE ABOUT **HER**. SHE LIKES TO PUT ON A BIG **SHOW**! SHE'S BEEN LIVIN' ALONE SO LONG - I MEAN WITHOUT GRANDPA - THAT SHE-SHE --- WELL, SHE AIN'T **RIGHT**...

OUR GUEST DOESN'T **BELIEVE**, GERALD. NO MATTER. THEY SELDOM DO!

MAYBE I'D BETTER SHOW M-MISTER PLOTKIN TO HIS ROOM, GRANDMA! ER... GOODNIGHT, GRANDMA!

NOT TOO MUCH, MR. PLOTKIN, WE'RE ALL BY OURSELVES OUT HERE.

OH! SENILE, HUH? THAT'S TOO BAD... HEY, IS THERE ANYTHING TO... UH... **DO** AROUND HERE... I MEAN **AT NIGHT**?

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! I COULDN'T RESIST!

AND THE WAY **SHE** LOOKS... WHY NOT?

HE THINKS OF HIS WIFE,  
AND OF HOW LONG HE  
HAS BEEN AWAY FROM  
HER AS HE FORCES A  
KISS ON THE GIRL, AND  
SOMETHING MUTE IN  
WENDY BREAKS FORTH.  
SHE ALMOST FEELS A  
KIND OF LOVE FOR THE  
POOR AND LONELY  
STRANGER... ALONE, SO  
MUCH LIKE HERSELF.

YOUR  
GRANDMOTHER  
CERTAINLY IS A  
**STRANGE**  
CHARACTER! WHAT  
DID SHE MEAN  
ABOUT THE BOX  
BEING HER  
EYES?

INSIDE IT IS A PAIR  
O' EYES! **REAL HUMAN**  
EYES! PRESERVED!

WHAT?? B-BUT  
WHAT IN THE NAME  
OF GOD WOULD  
SHE WANT WITH...  
WITH...?

I-I'M ALMOST  
AFRAID TO ASK  
THIS, BUT... WH-  
WHAT WAS YOUR  
GRANDFATHER'S  
NAME?

**GERALD!**  
WHY?

PLOTKIN ISN'T SURPRISED TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT, NOR IS HE  
SURPRISED TO DISCOVER HIMSELF ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THE HOUSE NEXT MORNING,  
WHEN...

WELL, G'BYE,  
MR. PLOTKIN!  
IT'S BEEN...  
**INTERESTING!**

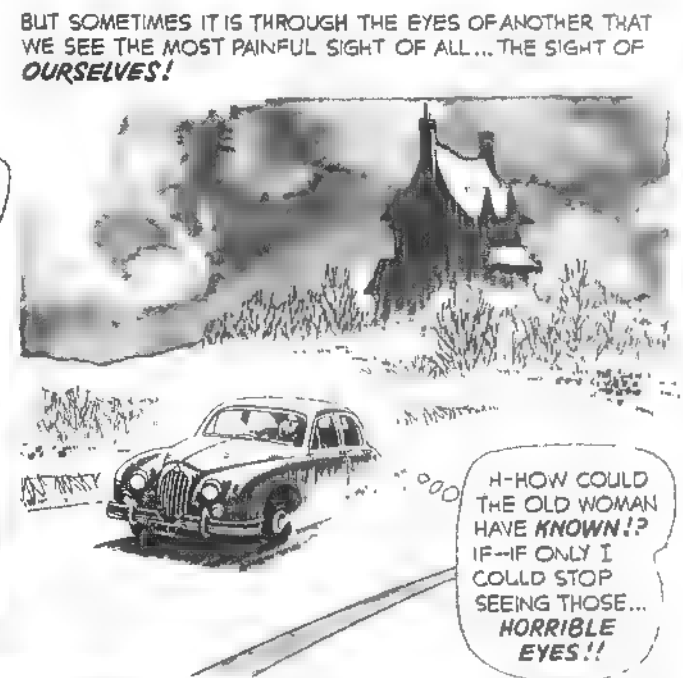
THANKS A LOT, WENDY!  
I, UH, ENJOYED IT, TOO!

SHE'S SICK!  
LIKE I TOLDJA! THEY'RE  
HER **HUSBAND'S EYES!**  
WHEN GRANDPA DIED SHE  
WENT ALL TO PIECES! THEY  
CREMATED HIM, BUT SHE  
ASKED THEY KEEP HIS EYES!  
SHE'S HAD 'EM EVER SINCE!  
SAYS SHE CAN **SEE** WITH  
'EM! **REAL SICK!**

**MR. PLOTKIN!!**  
I SAW IT! I SAW  
IT ALL!

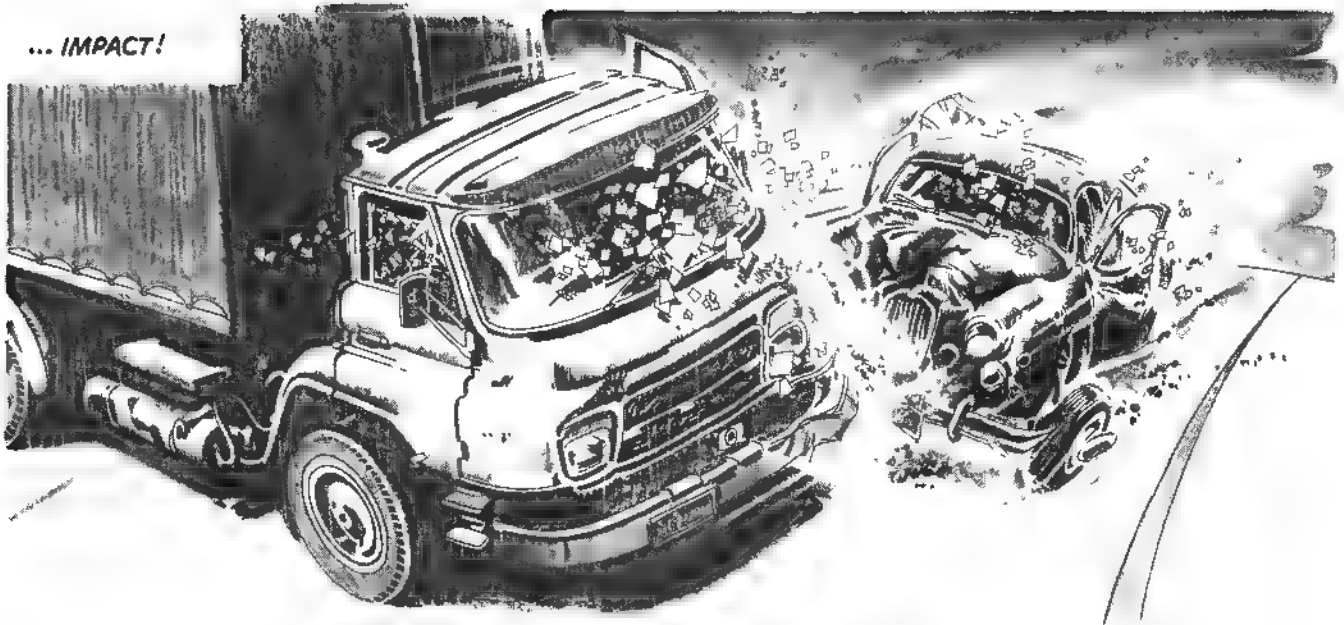
WH-WHAT ARE  
YOU T-TALKING  
ABOUT?

MY  
GRANDDAUGHTER!  
**PURE! BUT RUINED BY**  
**YOU!** YOU HEAR ME?  
**RUINED!** SHE THINKS SHE'S  
IN LOVE WITH YA! THE POOR  
FOOL! YA COME HERE LIKE  
ALL OF 'EM! WITH YORE  
EYES FULL O' LUST AND  
LOOKIN' FER **SIN!**





... IMPACT!



THERE IS THE KIND OF SILENCE THAT USUALLY ACCOMPANIES DEATH, BUT SOL PLOTKIN IS NOT SO LUCKY! HE IS LEFT TO MOAN AND WRITHE ON THE PAVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, HIS BLOOD DISCOLORING THE RECENTLY-PAINTED WHITE LINE THAT DIVIDES THE HIGHWAY INTO TWO LANES...



GOOD GOD -- I CAN'T SEE! MY EYES! MY EYES!! SWEET JESUS IN HEAVEN, I'M BLIND! HELP ME, SOMEBODY! I CAN'T SEE! MY EYES! MY GOD, MY EYES...!

GRANDMA -- YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THAT MR. PLOTKIN WILL EVER COME BACK, DO YOU?

I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN, DEAR, BUT I DON'T THINK SO...

...WILL YOU, MR. PLOTKIN?

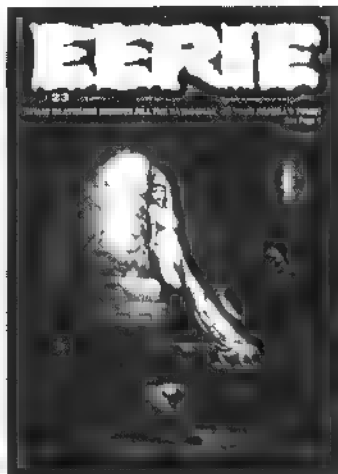


NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL POETIC JUSTICE! AND DEMOCRATIC, AT THAT! AFTER ALL, IT DOES EMBODY A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY: 'THE EYES HAVE IT'!



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# BIG POSTER

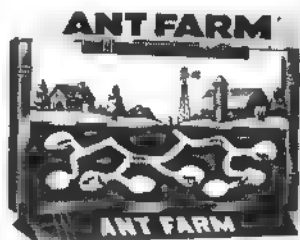


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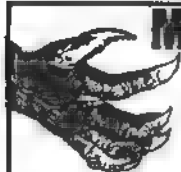
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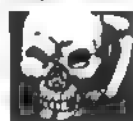
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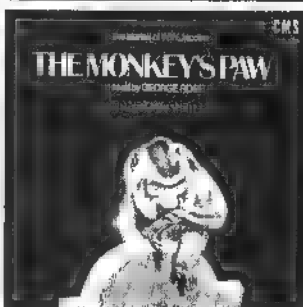
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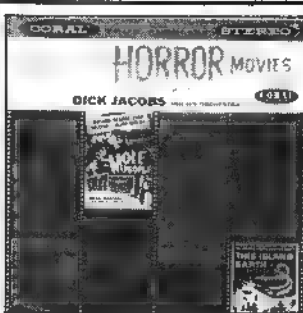
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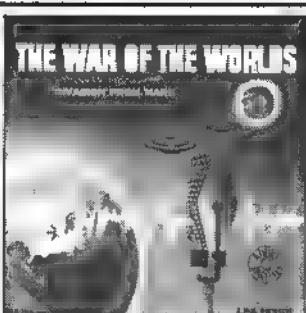
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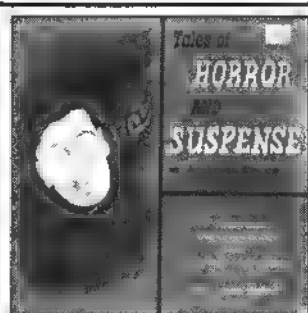
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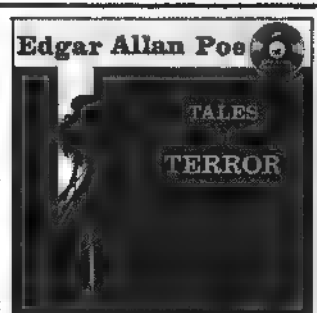
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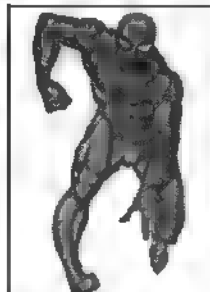
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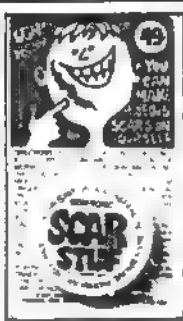


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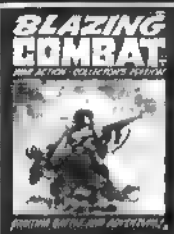
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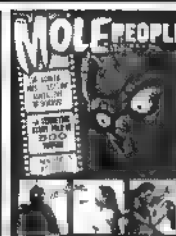


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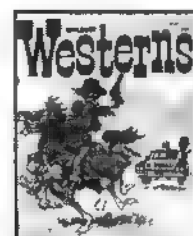
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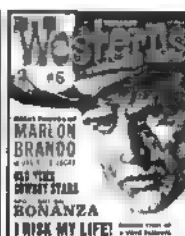
Complete film story! 500 photos! See eerie agony of Moles!



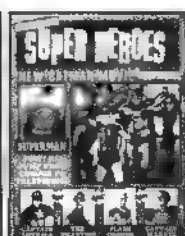
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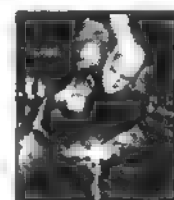
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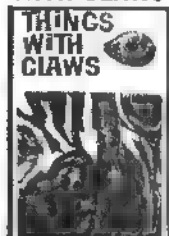
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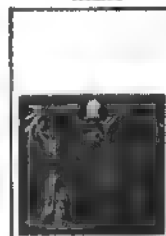
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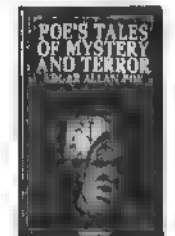
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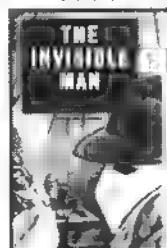
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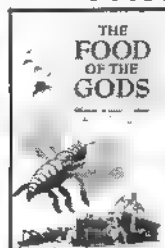
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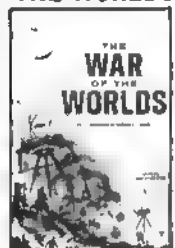
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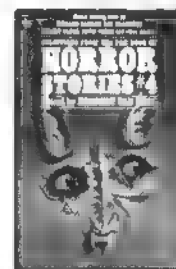
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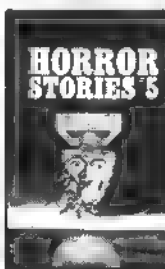
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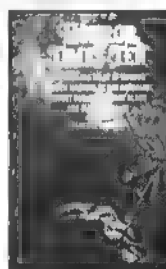
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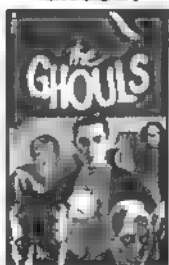
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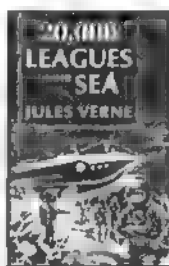
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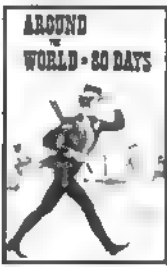
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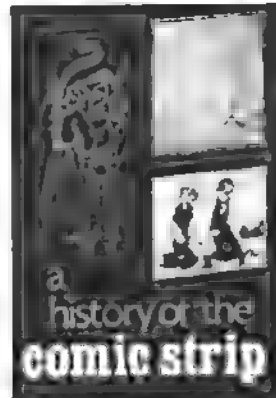
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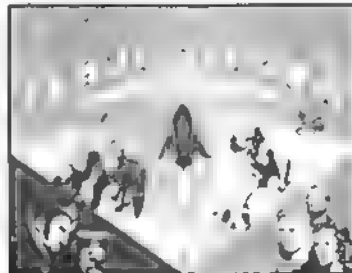
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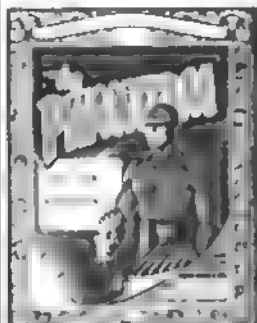
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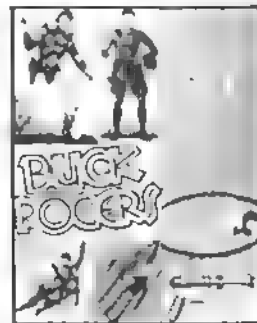
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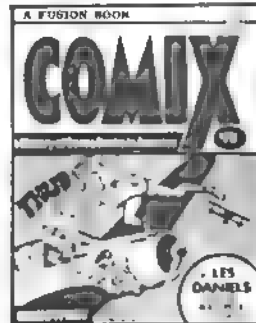
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## Writer Profile: GREG POTTER



Writer Greg Potter

One cold, windy November evening in Rhode Island, a most curious little child was born. It was in the winter of 1953 and the doctors remember it well, for they'd never seen an infant born with a comic book in his hand before. He turned out, oddly enough, to be me! My obsession for comic art began when I was about nine. I often remember my mom shooing me out of the house for some fresh air because I'd spend too much time drawing small crayon comic books of such forgettable characters as Glue Man, Groundhog, Chemical Mixer and other creations of mine. When, a few years later, I began to publish a fanzine called CB Fan Fair, both my mom and dad encouraged me quite a bit. In it, I wrote and drew a comic strip called "Negative Utopia" which

Scenes from the work of Greg Potter: Right, L.M. Roca's haunting treatment of "The Trap" from Eerie #36, and below, Richard Corben on "Friedhelm, the Magnificent"—CREEPY #46.



was an unbelievable hit. Everyone enjoyed it, and I enjoyed the great fan mail I got concerning it. At the same time, I regularly became the hit of all my English classes in school with my compositions and poems. I decided that this was what God had put me on earth for: to write and give enjoyment to others through my writings. That is why I was so thrilled when Warren Publishing accepted my first script; I was reaching hundreds of readers, each one having the potential to enjoy my work—and if you do, I am whole.

Other than being a wierdo writer, I'm a pretty normal kid really. I live in suburbia with my mom, dad, two brothers and my grandma. My hobbies are sailboating, folk-rock music (especially Cat Stevens), artwork, and pretty girls! My favorite authors are Ray Bradbury, J.D. Salinger, and Aldous Huxley. My favorite comics artists (what you've all been waiting for, right?) are Will Eisner, Neal Adams, Al Williamson and George Metzger. My ambitions? I'll never stop writing, that's for sure. When I get older I hope to get into novel writing. But as of now, that's only a dream—a beautiful, beautiful dream!



## SPECTRE OF A GODDESS

Most people would have taken the bright object that streaked across the night sky to be a shooting star. But the trained eyes of Professor Stephen Jameson perceived it as something else. He set off after it. He had covered only a few miles when he beheld the smoldering remains of an alien spaceship, torn to pieces in the crash. As he studied the wreck he sensed something was behind him. Jameson used his flashlight, and saw a strikingly beautiful woman, apparently the only occupant of the star craft.

He got a closer look at her. She had large, warm, green eyes which seemed to gaze into his soul. "We must go to my home."

"My name is Altara, of the world Koraden."

Jameson asked, "what happened to your ship?" She stammered slightly, "A meteor struck it, and it went out of control." She looked in his eyes. He suspected nothing.

In the weeks that followed, Jameson realized he was slowly falling in love with this space born Goddess, and though she felt affection for her benefactor, she denied it. When he asked if anyone knew she had crashed, she would not answer him. The answer soon became apparent when, after she had been on earth a month, a large starship entered the earth's atmosphere. Its occupants had located Altara's wrecked ship, and then her. It touched down about a hundred yards from Jameson's home, and from within came an ultimatum. "We, the Guardians of Koraden, demand that you return

to us Altara X-12A, escaped convict." Jameson turned to the frail girl who trembled behind him. "What do they mean?" "I lied to you, Stephen. From where I hailed I was a criminal. My ship was delivering me to a prison planet," she spoke tearfully, "for... for execution." Jameson covered his face with his hands, and Altara turned her face away.

Again the voice called out from the ship. "Surrender, Altara X-12A, or we shall be forced to kill your companion." Altara turned and stepped toward her executioners. Jameson grabbed her by the arm, and cried out to the Guardians, "No! I love her. You cannot have her!" She turned to him, her eyes glow-

ing. "On my world, we possess hypnotic powers. What you see now is an illusion." She began to change into a hideously ugly creature and Jameson released her arm. "This is what I really am. No beautiful woman, but an ugly monster." She changed back into human form. "Remember me like this, Stephen." A tear fell down her cheek. "I love you too." She turned and walked over to the Koraden ship. He did not realize, nor would he ever, that she had once again lied to him. She was in her normal form, not as a monster, but as a beautiful woman.

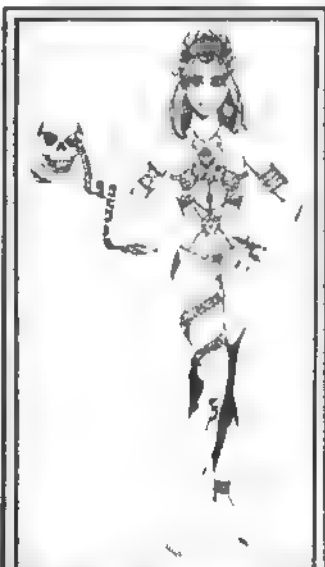
A beam of light from the ship enveloped Altara. A moment later the ship streaked off into space. Jameson looked at the burned circle the beam had made, and a tear fell down his own cheek as he turned his face to the stars.

RON MARTIN

## THE TIME IS NEVER

The time is never. The place is nowhere. There is nothing to see and nothing to do. There are lights, then no lights. All is in darkness. All is in light. Nothing is possible. Nothing is impossible. You are drifting through space and time without a care in the world, because for you there is no world. Ever drifting, never resting, life is an eternity. Death is an eternity. Drifting, drifting, ever drifting. Never resting, ever drifting. Transitions, transitions, and more transitions. Transitions from night into day, light into dark, and possible into impossible. Sometimes heavy, sometimes light, you drift on forever until you are reborn... For this is Death.

WENDY CRABTREE



Frightening fan art of Cleopatra holding the skull of one of her former admirers comes from the fertile mind of HUDSON HILL.

# THE SAFE

She had always loved her husband. Or, at least, that was what she had always told herself. But, in reality, she hated him, hated his perpetual smile and acts of kindness.

Every evening, the two of them would follow the same routine. He would come home, they would sit down for dinner, all the while saying very little to each other. After dinner, he would retire to his study, locking the door behind him.

The doctor came to her house to inform her of her husband's death. She had put on a good act of sorrow, that thoroughly convinced the doctor how much she missed her husband.

He had no cause to question her motive, to dig any deeper into the nature of her husband's untimely death. As best he could, the doctor, an old and kindly man, well on in years and their family physician for as long as she could remember, offered what little solace he could muster in her hour of grief. Secretly, she laughed for it was Heaven to be finally rid of him, finally rid of the endless non-entity that her husband had become. Towards his last, he was little better than a vegetable, a human vegetable who needed the cold and quiet solace of his study to fester and mold.

She was ecstatically happy now. Finally, she had reason to live. Her life would flower. She thought of beginning a career she had long since given up hope for in marriage. All things seemed wondrous and sparked with the gold of hope. She had cast off her albatross and the air was far

cleaner and fresher than she remembered it being in ages. It was almost like she had been re-born a new woman.

All during the day, she was a bundle of nerves. Only once did she smile, and that was when her dear departed husband's lawyer informed her of his insurance policy, which happened to make her a very rich widow.

It wasn't till ten-o'clock that she was left alone. The first thing she did was to get his key ring. She then entered his study, and for a moment, was stunned by the silence that filled the close confines of the room. With a shrug, she came out of her stupor, and walked over to a large painting. She took it down, to reveal a small wall safe. She looked through the numerous keys on his key chain that she held. She chose one, and unlocked the safe. For a moment, only for a moment, she hesitated in opening the safe. Then, she whisked open the door, and began to scream.

Now, she knew the answer to the many things that had plagued her for the past four years. Now, she knew why there were no mirrors throughout the house, no reflective surfaces. Now, she knew why she had not been permitted to ever leave the house. And finally, now she knew the result of her accident of four years ago, how it had scarred her once beautiful face. The reflection of her face in the mirror in the safe, the scorched skin and distorted features, was enough to drive her mad!

As for why it did not affect her late husband, maybe it was because he was—blind.

RICHARD PICKMAN



Horrific closeup of a caricatured VAMPIRELLA leering at you, perhaps for some warm, red blood was drawn in the dark of night under the light of the moon by BILL BRYAN.

## Advance Guard

Jorkan landed the J-714 Galactorocket while Kyrilla checked the landing area with a periscope. Jorkan could see that he was worried and asked why. "I still think we should have investigated more fully before landing here. All we know is that the planet supports rational life, but we should have first ascertained what the dominant species was."

Jorkan impatiently brushed aside the suggestion of his subordinate. "I realize you only graduated from the Exploration Division of Interstellar University last year, but your instructors must have informed you that throughout the galaxy ours is always the dominant race among the myriad forms of creation."

Kyrilla was still worried, but obeyed his orders, and the two explorers left the ship. Within 15 minutes they had found a substantial number of creatures very similar to themselves.

Kyrilla was still doubtful and urged caution, but Jorkan called him a timorous fool and ordered him to watch how communication could be established with an alien species to learn the extent of their strength. They approached one of the creatures and Jorkan spoke in Versa, the uniform language of the Galaxy's civilized worlds, asking the stranger to take them to a governmental or military official. The strange creature ignored the question and continued to eat his dinner. Jorkan tried several other languages with the same result, then ordered Kyrilla to put on his portable

telecommunicator, which would enable him to read the mind of their indifferent host.

"I can't get any rational thought pattern. It's like trying to read the mind of an animal. I can't believe that such minds could be the dominant race on a planet like this."

Jorkan was getting angry. "Are you blind? You can see they are just like us. We'll turn off our force fields to see if they interfered with the telecommunicator."

Kyrilla doubted the wisdom of this, but obeyed orders. A few minutes later the strange creature hurriedly left without ever responding to their inquiries. "As soon as we return to the J-714 I am going to report this planet ripe for invasion. These creatures are like our remote ancestors over a million years ago and will never be able to resist our force."

Suddenly a shadow appeared over the two explorers. Kyrilla looked up and reached to turn on his force field, but it was too late. An immense object smashed against them, crushing them against the earth. They both died almost instantaneously.

"I got two of them this time, Mary. These miserable flies can certainly spoil a picnic. Hey, I never saw flies quite like this before."

"Oh, Fred, stop worrying about a few useless flies and think about something important like our daughter's graduation next week or the condition of the economy or Vietnam. You're always concerned with trivialities."

"I guess you're right, Mary. How are the hot dogs coming?"

DOUGLAS W. JUSTICE



Sketch of VAMPIRELLA in chains with a determined look of freedom on her face was done by bewitched reader CARA SHERMAN.

## THE GIFT

Emma walked into the little shop and purchased just what she had been looking for. She then went home, wrapped it up, and sent the package to her most hated enemy, Sarah Williams. A week later, Sarah received the package. Inside was a makeup set. Sarah was puzzled but her hand seemed to have a life of its own as it reached for the makeup. Sarah was helpless as her hands applied the grotesque makeup. At night Sarah tried to remove the makeup but it wouldn't come off! Sarah screamed as she clawed at her face in a desperate effort to remove it. Her son found her still clawing at the makeup long since gone but by this time she had ripped most of the skin from her face.

HENRY C. BRENNAN

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## PROLOGUE:

IT HAD ALL HAPPENED SO FAST. ONE MOMENT, FURLON HARTLEY AND HIS BROTHER FEIN WERE SAUNTERING THROUGH THE STREETS OF CARLONIA...

THIS VESSEL OF SNAKE'S VENOM AND GOATSWAIN SMELLS OF SATAN'S ORCHIDS! I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO CARRY IT!

AYE! BEING THE SONS OF THE TOWN SORCEROR IS NO EASY ROLE TO PLAY. YET, FATHER NEEDS THAT CONCOCTION FOR HIS WORK.

AND THE NEXT MOMENT, CONFUSION!

FEIN, WHAT'S THIS? WHY IS EVERYONE RUNNING LIKE A PACK OF FRIGHTENED DOGS?

I KNOW NOT, BROTHER.

FURLON NEVER KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO FEIN. HE ONLY KNEW THAT HE HAD NOT RUN QUITE FAST ENOUGH...

BUT THE NEXT INSTANT, FEIN AND FURLON WERE TO FIND OUT.

GREAT SANATOS! AN INVASION!

RUN FURLON! RUN!

AND AS HE FELL, HE LOST HOLD OF THE VIAL OF FLUID WHICH SPLASHED IN HIS FACE.





BY THE TIME FURLON AWOKE, THE CITY HAD FALLEN AND ITS CONQUERER, JENWRAL THE MIGHTY, STOOD BEFORE THE YOUTH.

FURLON'S SKIN CRAWLED AT JENWRAL'S UGLY SIGHT, BUT AS HIS LIPS MOVED TO VOICE DEFIANCE...

HO!  
THE LAD AWAKES! LOOK UPON YOUR NEW EMPEROR, FURLON!

NO BOY, YOU CANNOT SPEAK. YOU DRANK IN TOO MUCH OF THAT VILE-SMELLING BREW YOU CARRIED, AND IT TOOK AWAY YOUR TONGUE...

...AS WELL AS YOUR FEATURES! SUCH A PITIFUL FATE FOR THE SON OF A SORCEROR, EH, FURLON?

DAZED, FURLON'S THOUGHTS WHIRLED AROUND HIS SKULL LIKE A CYCLONE. HE SHOOK HIS HEAD "YES".

DON'T DESPAIR SO, BOY! JENWRAL THE MIGHTY CAN AT LEAST OFFER YOU PARTIAL FREEDOM FROM YOUR RATHER UGLY STATE! I COULD ARRANGE TO HAVE YOUR VOICE RETURNED. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT, FURLON?

THE IDEA REPULSED FURLON, YET, WHAT ELSE WAS THERE? THE CITY WAS CONQUERED; FEIN WAS DEAD OR MISSING; AND HE HIMSELF WAS HOPELESSLY SCARRED.

EXCELLENT, MY BOY... EXCELLENT! BUT, WE MUSTN'T EXPECT SOMETHING FOR NOTHING, MUST WE? IF I AM TO RETURN YOUR VOICE, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING FOR ME...HOW WOULD YOU ENJOY BEING MY COURT SORCEROR!

HE AGREES!  
**HE AGREES!...**  
RING THE BELLS  
AND INFORM THE  
POPULANCE!  
FURLON THE SORCEROR  
IS BORN!

HERE'S A TALE THAT  
HAPPENED SOME  
"KNIGHTS" AGO  
CALLED...

# VENGEANCE BROTHER VENGEANCE!

THE EVIL JENWRAL  
HAS CHANGED CARLONIA  
MUCH SINCE I LAST  
LIVED THERE, IT IS NO LONGER  
THE PEACEFUL VILLAGE  
OF MY YOUTH!  
MY HEART STOPS AT  
THE SIGHT!

SLIPPING FROM HIS UNICORN, AN OLDER FEIN HARTLEY SCURRIES TOWARDS THE MOAT SURROUNDING CARLONIA.

MAY SANATOS HAVE MERCY ON JENWRAL ONCE MY FINGERS CLOSE ROUND HIS SLIMY THROAT!



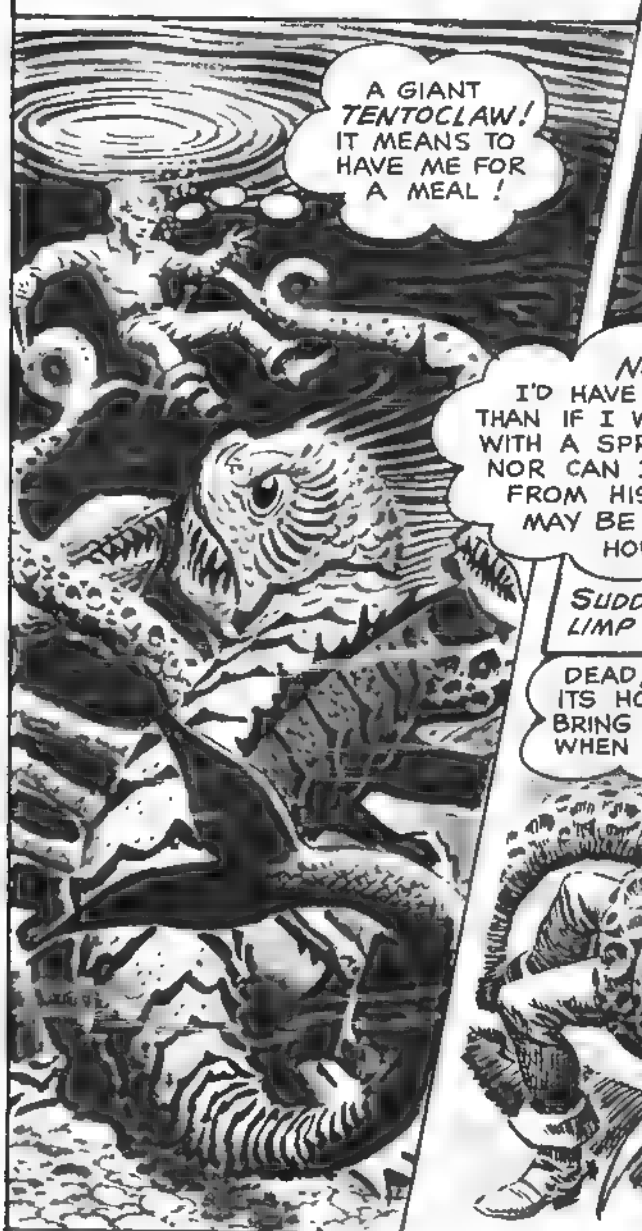
FEIN SLIDES INTO THE BRINE AND THE MOAT WATER HISSES AS HIS LITHE FORM CUTS ITS SURFACE.

Oooo...THE WATER SEEMS UNCOMMONLY WARM! I'D WAGER—WAIT! WHAT'S THAT SOMETHING IS GRIPPING MY LEG?



IN SECONDS, HE WAS LOST BENEATH THE MOAT'S SURFACE!

A GIANT TENTOCLAW! IT MEANS TO HAVE ME FOR A MEAL!



NO USE!  
I'D HAVE NO MORE LUCK THAN IF I WAS WHIPPING HIM WITH A SPROUT OF BARLEY! NOR CAN I FREE MYSELF FROM HIS GRASP! THERE MAY BE ONE CHANCE, HOWEVER...

SUDDENLY, FEIN GOES LIMP!

IF I PLAY DEAD, IT SHOULD LOOSEN ITS HOLD ON ME AND BRING ME TO ITS MOUTH. WHEN I GET CLOSE ENOUGH...



...UP I DART!





...AND I ATTACK  
ITS SORE SPOT:  
**THE EYE!**



**SCREAMING IN SILENT AGONY,  
THE HUGE TENTOCLAW WRITHES  
AND TWISTS UNTIL THE WATER  
BOILS AROUND ITS TORSO. FEIN  
SWIMS SWIFTLY TO THE SURFACE.**



Oooo...  
AND THUS,  
THE FIRST LEG  
OF THE JOURNEY  
IS WON!

**UNAWARE THAT HIS  
GUARDIAN OF THE MOAT HAS BEEN DISPOSED  
OF, JENWRAL GOES ABOUT HIS DAILY "DUTIES".**



YOUR GREATNESS,  
THE EXPEDITION  
HAS RETURNED.  
THEY HAVE FULLFILLED  
YOUR WISHES.

WHICH MEANS THAT  
THEY'VE BROUGHT ME  
A BRIDE! HA! GOOD!  
TELL THEM THAT I  
WISH TO SEE HER  
IMMEDIATELY!

**AS THE GUARD LEAVES, A FAMILIAR  
FIGURE ENTERS.**



YOU WISHED  
MY PRESENCE,  
YOUR GREATNESS?

**AH! FURLON!**  
DO COME AND STAND  
BESIDE ME. I WANT  
YOU TO SEE  
SOMETHING!



FURLON TAKES  
HIS PLACE JUST  
AS A TROLL  
GUARD ENTERS  
CARRYING...

BEHOLD, FURLON!  
MY FUTURE BRIDE!  
LOVELY, IS SHE NOT?

AYE,  
YOUR GREATNESS.  
LOVELY.

AND WHAT  
IS THIS LASS'S  
NAME, GUARD?



MELANDRA!  
I AM MELANDRA,  
THE BETROTHED  
OF FEIN HARTLEY!

SO!  
THE LITTLE  
SPITFIRE HAS  
A TONGUE OF  
HER OWN!



BUT LET ME CORRECT YOU,  
SPITFIRE! YOU ARE THE BETROTHED  
OF JENWRAL THE MIGHTY! FURTHER-  
MORE, ONCE I TURN YOU OVER TO  
MY COURT SORCEROR, FURLON, YOU  
WILL *LIKE* ME BETTER! FURLON  
HAS WAYS OF ALTERING  
ONE'S EGO—VERY  
PERMANENT WAYS!  
ISN'T THAT  
RIGHT, FURLON?  
**FURLON?**

ANSWER ME,  
DAMN YOU!  
I AM YOUR KING!



UH, OH!  
FORGIVE ME, SIRE.  
MY MIND... I WAS  
ELSEWHERE.



WITH A SNORT OF DISGUST, JENWRAL ORDERS THE GIRL TO BE TAKEN TO FURLON'S QUARTERS.

AS FURLON OPENS HIS MOUTH IN PROTEST, HE FINDS THAT HE CAN UTTER NOTHING.

AS FOR YOU, SORCERER, ... YOU'D BEST KEEP YOUR WANDERING MIND UPON THE BUSINESS AT HAND; UNLESS YOU WISH THE LOSS OF YOUR VOICE AGAIN! ... IN FACT, I THINK I SHALL DEPRIVE YOU OF YOUR VOCAL CORDS ... AT LEAST UNTIL YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR PRESENT TASK TO MY SATISFACTION!

ALTER THAT GIRL'S MIND! I WANT HER DOCILE! MAKE HER ADORE ME! WORSHIP ME! ONLY THEN, ONLY WHEN YOU EARN IT, WILL YOUR VOICE BE RETURNED!

BUT FURLON... HARDLY HEARS HIS EMPEROR'S FRENZIED ORDERS. SILENT, HE WALKS A LONG SPARSELY-LIT BRICK-LINED CORRIDOR.

MEANWHILE, FEIN HAS FOUND A PASSAGEWAY INTO THE CASTLE.

AT LEAST THE OLD SEWERS OF THE CITY HAVE BEEN PRESERVED. IT USED TO BE GREAT FUN TO EXPLORE THESE TUNNELS IN MY CHILDHOOD DAYS. NOW I NEED THEM TO GET WITHIN THE CASTLE'S DREAD WALLS SO THAT I MAY RESCUE MELANDRA, MY BETROTHED!

THAT GIRL SAID SHE WAS BETROTHED TO FEIN HARTLEY! CAN IT BE? IS MY BROTHER STILL ALIVE THEN? OH SANATOS! I PRAY IT BE SO!

AND MAYHAP, IF MY SWORD FIND HIM, SLAY THE INSIDIOUS JENWRAL AND AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER, FURLON!

AND WHILE FEIN THINKS ON  
HIS LONG LOST BROTHER,  
FURLON DWELLS UPON FEIN...

OH, IF ONLY I COULD  
SPEAK! THE QUESTIONS  
I HAVE TO ASK—THEY RASP  
IN MY SILENT THROAT  
LIKE THE WOODSMAN'S  
SAW! IS FEIN ALIVE?

**FURLON!**

I THOUGHT I'D SEE HOW  
YOU WERE COMING ALONG,  
FURLON. AND HOW ARE YOU,  
MY PRECIOUS LITTLE  
BRIDE?

YOU'RE  
STRANGELY SILENT,  
SORCEROR! IS IT  
GUILT THAT HOLDS YOUR  
TONGUE IN ITS  
BLASPHEMOUS  
GRIP?

I AM  
BRIDE TO NO  
MONSTER!

**MY BROTHER!**

MONSTER AM I!  
WE'LL SEE... EH?  
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?  
WHO'S THERE?

**FEIN!**

AND WHAT SORT  
OF RABBLE MIGHT  
THIS BE WHO DARES  
INTERRUPT JENWRAL  
AND HIS COURT  
SORCERER AT THEIR  
WORK?

AT THE SIGHT OF JENWRAL, FEIN'S BLOOD BOILS! FEIN LIFTS HIS SWORD ABOVE HIS HEAD IN READINESS TO STRIKE AT JENWRAL! JENWRAL COWERS BACK AND FURLON RUSHES AT HIS BROTHER.

DO YOU REMEMBER FEIN HARTLEY, SCUM? DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE HIM WHOSE BROTHER'S BLOOD YOU SPILT AND WHOSE BETROTHED YOU'VE STOLEN?! DO YOU NOT SEE YOUR EXECUTIONER?!!

NO, FEIN!

FURLON, FEARING THAT THROUGH JENWRAL'S DEATH HIS VOICE WILL BE LOST FOREVER, LEAPS IN BETWEEN THE TWO ENEMIES ONLY TO RECEIVE THE BLOW INTENDED FOR JENWRAL!

DON'T KILL...  
UH!

DIE, DESPOT!  
EH?!

BADLY WOUNDED AND BLEEDING UNCONTROLLABLY, FURLON FALLS TO THE FLOOR AS...

LOYAL SERVANTS YOU HAVE, JENWRAL! THAT ONE WOULD DIE IN YOUR PLACE!

BAH!  
THINK YOU THAT FEIN HARTLEY CANNOT MAKE SHORT WORK OF A SIMPLE CAT?

BUT FURLON GROANS, FOR THIS IS NO SIMPLE CAT. IT IS A CAMELEON-LIKE MONSTER... A BODY-GUARD FASHIONED BY FURLON'S OWN MAGICAL HERBS AND INCANTATIONS!

GREAT SANATOS!

SO WOULD THIS ONE, HARTLEY! KILL HIM, MY PET.



AND IT WRAPS ITSELF ABOUT FEIN BREATHING HOT DEATH INTO HIS FACE!



IT STRIKES, REPLACING FEIN'S RED BLOOD WITH DEADLY GREEN VENOM!



THEY BOTH STRIKE, AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT ONLY ONE FALLS INTO THAT BOTTOMLESS ABYSS THAT IS DEATH!

HE STRIKES, TEARING INTO THE CREATURE'S BLACK BLOOD WITH HIS BROADSWORD BLADE!



NOW,  
FOR YOU,  
JENWRAL!

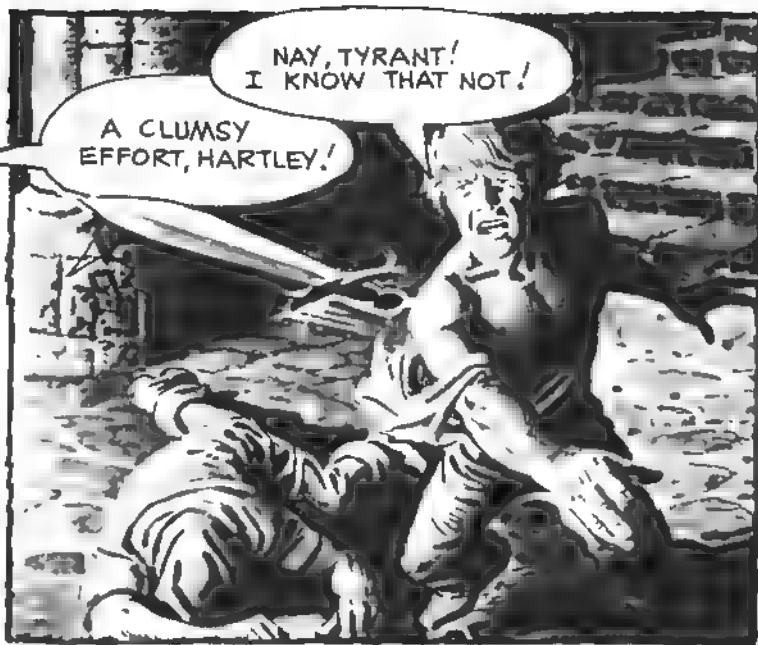


NO, HARTLEY! NOW FOR YOU! YOU'RE TIRED OUT FROM THAT BATTLE, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY DEFEAT ME! WHAT'S MORE, YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T!



NAY, TYRANT! I KNOW THAT NOT!

A CLUMSY EFFORT, HARTLEY!



BUT AS JENWRAL PARRYS THE FLYING SWORD, FEIN LEAPS FOR HIS ENEMY'S THROAT!

I EASILY THRUST ASIDE YOUR THROW THUS... AWP!



FOR A BRUTAL WHILE, THE DUO ROLL ABOUT THE FLOOR IN A FRENZIED STRUGGLE FOR POSSESSION OF JENWRAL'S SWORD!



ABRUPTLY, THE UPPER HAND GOES TO FEIN!



AND HE USES IT!

ARRRGH!...

AND AT THE MOMENT OF  
JENWRAL'S DEATH, FURLON AT  
LAST FINDS HIS VOICE!

FEIN!

BUT HIS BROTHER'S NAME IS  
THE LAST THING THAT FURLON  
WILL EVER UTTER FOR, WITH  
A GROANING SIGH, THE  
SORCEROR FALLS BACK INTO  
A POOL OF HIS OWN LIFE'S  
BLOOD... DEAD!

BUT HIS CRY  
DOES NOT GO  
UNNOTICED!

DID YOU HEAR  
THAT, MELANDRA? THAT  
WAS MY BROTHER FURLON...  
OR HIS GHOST! YES!  
YES! THAT'S IT! IT WAS  
HIS GHOST CRYING OUT  
HIS PRAISE TO ME  
FOR AVENGING HIS  
DEATH!

NO THANKS  
NECESSARY, FURLON!  
NO THANKS  
NECESSARY!

IF YOUR BROTHER'S  
GHOST EVER REALLY  
COMES BACK, I DON'T  
THINK YOU'LL GET MUCH  
THANKS, FEIN!





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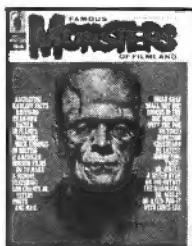
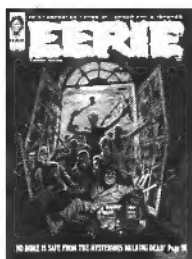
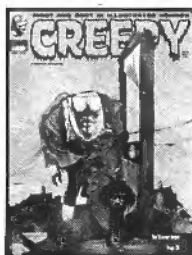
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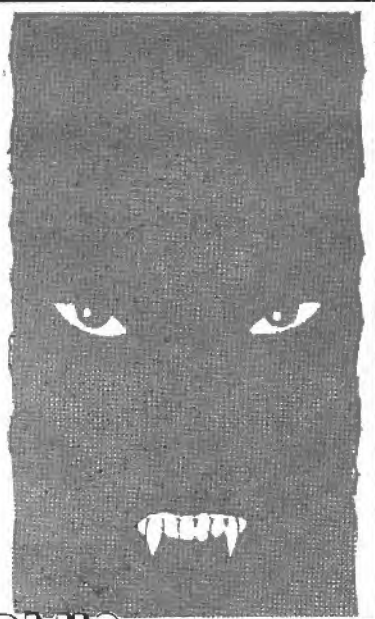
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REVENGE HAS, UPON INFREQUENT BUT TERRIFYING OCCASSIONS BEEN KNOWN TO EXTEND BEYOND THE GRAVE -- ESPECIALLY IF ONE, IN THE PROCESS OF DEATH, HAS **LOST SOMETHING**, AS HAS...

# THE HEADLESS HAUNTRESS OF SHEPTON PRISON

FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS, SHEPTON MALLET PRISON IN SOMERSET, ENGLAND HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY ETHEREAL MANIFESTATIONS OF A GHOSTLY INMATE. TERRIFIED GUARDS SPEAK IN HOARSE WHISPERS OF INEXPLICABLE BANGINGS, RAPPINGS, AND KNOCKINGS. BUT OVERSHADOWING THESE IS THE MYSTERIOUS SIGH OF HEAVY BREATHING WHICH REGULARLY EMANATES FROM AN UNINHABITED CELL ...

EVEN THE ENIGMATIC HOWEVER CAN BE EXPLAINED. NATIVES OF THE SMALL ENGLISH TOWN STILL SPEAK OF THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS BEHEADED AT THE PRISON IN 1860. SHE HAD OCCUPIED THE CELL WHICH NOW HOUSES THE PRISON'S "WEIRD PRESENCE"...

SINCE THE GULLOTTINING, THE YOUNG WOMAN'S GLOWING, HEADLESS GHOST HAS MADE PERIODIC AND FORLORN APPEARANCES IN THE OLD PRISON CELL, CAUSING MANY A DISCONCERTED GUARD TO SPILL HIS SCALDING MIDNIGHT TEA...

SOME PEOPLE HAVE SPECULATED THAT, IN HER MUTILATED CONDITION, SHE IS UNABLE TO PASS ON INTO THE HEREAFTER. OTHERS CLAIM SHE MERELY SEEKS REVENGE FOR THE ODIOUS DEED PERPETRATED UPON HER OVER A CENTURY AGO. BUT BOTH FACTIONS AGREE ON ONE THING: THAT HER DECAPITATED BODY IS SEARCHING FOR HER HEAD...





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